

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

It has been well said that the road to hell may be paved also with good works. Busyness in good causes does not carry with it an iron-clad guarantee of salvation. Blunt was the warning of our Lord: "I never knew you! Go away from me, you who do wring!" Thus he addressed men who were sure of their own righteousness.

A woman of distinction once went to consult the Abbe Huvelin about her inner spiritual condition, and received this advice: "Madam, I beseech you to mistrust your zeal for doing good to other people." Martin Luther once said that he feared good works more than his sins.

^{danger}
A special ~~temptation~~ comes to men and women who carry the burden of church activities, a subtle temptation to substitute the outward for the inner. Illustrations are legion of church officials who spend only brief moments in corporate silence and quiet reflection upon the function of the church in the community

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The road to hell may be paved ~~also~~ with good works.

~~Busy~~ Busy -ness in noble causes does not carry a guarantee of salvation. To those who were sure of their own righteousness, Jesus said bluntly: "I never knew you! Go away from me, you who wrong!" A woman of distinction once consulted the Abbe Huvelin about her ~~own~~ spiritual health, and received this advice: "Madam, I beseech you to mistrust your zeal for doing good to other people." Martin Luther once said that he feared good works more than his sins.

A special danger comes to men and women who carry the burden of church activities, a subtle temptation to substitute the outward for the inner, to value activity and to neglect interior ~~replenishing~~ ^{replenishing}. For every Christian who prays too much there are ten thousand who pray too little. And the rejoinder is not convincing that one can pray in the midst of activity. Of course, he can and he should. But these fragments of prayer are no adequate substitute for unhurried and reverent adoration, for leisurely reflection upon the goodness and holiness of God, and praise to him for ~~countless~~ ^{countless} blessings received, for sustained self-examination under divine eyes, for vivid awareness of the contrast between present spiritual condition and future possibility of growth, for fresh ~~commitment~~ ^{for the cry of Confession} to the doing of ~~his~~ ^{God's} will, for fervent intercession in behalf of loved ones and those in special need and those who carry the burden of public office, for quiet and intent listening to the still small voice, and for the sheer exaltation of an unbroken experience of the presence of God.

Being is prior to doing. Overflow nourishes the good life.

and the appeal to be forgiven,

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date July 8th, 1401,

In the records of Seville Cathedral in Spain, are these words of its founders: "Let us build a church so great that those who come after us may think we are mad to have attempted it." And to this day the structure stands as "that stone fabric of men's imagination," "a veritable treasure house of art masterpieces, wood carvings, sculptures and reliquaries."

Long before the year 1401, the Roman ruler Festus had cried out: "Paul, you are mad; your great learning is turning you mad." And later the apostle confessed: ~~"I am a public spectacle here before the angels of Heaven and the~~
"We are looked upon as fools, for Christ's sake... If any man among you thinks himself of the world's clever ones, let ^{one} him discard his cleverness that he may learn to be truly wise. For this world's cleverness is stupidity to God."

It has often been noticed that a crazy man may consider everyone else insane. To individuals whose lives are made up of ~~spending~~ drinking and carousing, it seems ~~utter~~ madness for a ^{good man} ~~person~~ to live as to get himself crucified as a public enemy. A person whose light itself is ~~light~~ darkness looks upon true light as utter ~~opaque~~ opaqueness. When with tenacity we hold to wrong ideas, those who contradict us are considered unsound.

In the New Testament the world, the flesh, and the devil are ^{denounced} ~~denounced~~ as enemies of the good life. Self-centeredness in pursuit of its own gain and power and pleasure ^{is} ~~is~~ recognized as standing over against God-centeredness and eager desire to do his holy will in deeds of lovingkindness. Little wonder then that the challenge still resounds: Be not conformed to this world. Come ye out from among them and be different!

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In his famous commentary on The Epistle of Paul to the Romans, Professor Dodd cites convincing evidence that in the apostle's mind the Wrath of God is "an inevitable process of cause and effect in a moral universe," ^{and not personal vindictiveness.} ^{us} This is a conclusion of utmost importance because it enables ^{us} to see clearly the relation between the Grace of God and the Wrath of God.

All New Testament writers agree that the Grace of God is his free gift of love to undeserving sinners while they are still living in iniquity. It is an expression of God's true character, and is bestowed on his own initiative because of his ardent desire. It can never be deserved and it can never be earned. It is a self-sacrificing gift from God, ~~the Grace~~ ^{and} ~~of God~~ flows continuously. Nothing can stop it, not even our worst sins. Always God confronts us with passion for our wellbeing. Never does he reveal the slightest trace of ~~evil~~ ill will toward, never does he display any vindictiveness of spirit. Nothing can separate us from the Grace of God, absolutely nothing.

Out of his great love for us, and because of his compassionate concern for our wellbeing, God sustains the moral order of the universe and maintains the integrity of the law of the harvest. Good seed produce a good harvest, and not even the Grace of God can prevent an evil harvest from the sowing of evil seed. The good harvest is the expression of the Grace of God, and the evil harvest is the only Wrath of God there is. The Cross of Christ is the supreme revelation of both Grace and Wrath.

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Those of us who are seeking the peace of God which passes all understanding will do well to reflect upon the meaning of these words from ~~the great~~ Dean Inge: "A generation which wishes for a religion without tears must find it difficult to adjust its beliefs to the teaching of the New Testament and to the facts of life."

The great characters of the Bible were men of sorrows and acquainted with grief. The pinnacle passage of the Old Testament is about the suffering servant who brings redemption to the guilty. The heart of the New Testament is the Cross of Christ, and the Holy Spirit of God groans over us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Yet the Gospel of Christ is good news, and the note of triumph resounds from Matthew to Revelation. The joy of our Lord and the peace of God are assured to true disciples.

The suffering of the righteous is unavoidable for at ^{certain} least three reasons: First, love is ~~bound~~ [^] to bring suffering when the beloved suffers. Second, the more we grow spiritually, the more we grieve over our weaknesses and sins. Third, the higher we climb above the status quo, the more we become suspected and feared and ~~regarded~~ victimized.

Thus it is impossible to experience enduring peace of mind on the surface of life. The peace of God is found only in ~~these~~ deep waters where love brings identification with those who suffer and holy comradeship

No. 222 to No. 283

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Author of Living Creatively, Living Joyously,
How To Find the Will of God

These devotional columns are free, and may be obtained
upon request.

The present columns carry the series through 283 weeks.

Their chief purpose is for use on the church page of
newspapers, and in papers published by local churches.

They are ^{also} used in church bulletins, as mimeographed
inserts sent to all families in the church, in radio programs,
in various devotional meetings and prayer groups, and for
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Interested individuals should take the initiative in
passing along word, especially to editors and ministers,
that they are available upon request.

Kirby Page

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front cover

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One of the oldest of human questions is, What shall I do with my enemy? Three answers ~~are given~~ reflect stages of spiritual insight in the Bible: take vengeance against him seventy times seven, render justice and restrict retaliation to one eye for one eye, love him with self-giving concern.

Jesus' reason for calling upon his disciples to love their enemies is, "so that you may show yourselves true sons of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on bad and good alike, and makes the rain fall on the upright and the wrongdoer."

Love is the greatest thing in the world because it is the very nature of God. ^{It} ~~Love~~ is more than a sentiment or an emotion, it is a relationship. ^{God continues to love us even} ~~Love continues to love us even~~ while he beholds in us many attitudes and actions which he does not like. So we are called upon to love even when we do not like. Love in this sense is not the same as physical love or ~~just~~ family affection. It is concern for the wellbeing of an enemy, an ardent desire that his life may be filled with wisdom, righteousness and joy. It is yearning that he may become everything that God wants him to be, that he also may be a true son of our Father God. It is more than aspiration, it is commitment and effort expended in his behalf. Its fullest expression is seen in the Way of the Cross, where innocence suffers at the hands of the guilty and prays for the forgiveness of the wrongdoer. Little wonder then that the New Testament insists that when a man is in Christ he is a new creature.

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"Why doesn't God do something?" is the cry of many an anguished heart when tragedy strikes.

Long before the moment of desolation comes, we should discipline our minds and hearts with the realization that God ^{now} is doing everything that he can do to enrich our lives and grant unto us fulness of joy. That is, he is doing all that he can ~~possibly~~ do - until. But he could do much more - if. ~~But that is God doing, and under what circumstances could he do more?~~

1. He is loving us with affection far deeper than any human love can be - with infinite longing for our wellbeing.
2. He has equipped us with every faculty needed for life in the Kingdom of God, and is constantly appealing to our mind and emotion, conscience and will to follow his guidance and receive his power.
3. He is trusting us with the use of our faculties, and never takes away from us freedom of choice, not even when we use our liberty to live in rebellion against his holy will.
4. He is maintaining the moral order of the universe, and holding inviolable the law of sowing and reaping, so that good seed produce a good harvest and evil seed an evil harvest.
5. He is enabling us to grow in understanding and in ability to enter ever more deeply into life abundant.
7. He is suffering with us in all our distresses, and ^{affording} ~~affording~~ his companionship in every hour of trouble.
8. He is offering us the salvation of right relationships as we respond to ^{the} ~~his~~ revelation in his Son our Lord.
9. He is providing for us an eternal home in the ages to come.
6. He is answering prayers offered in the spirit of Jesus, in ways that are best for us.

The Bible is the Word of
God, and God is the same
Yesterday, today and

Forever. But man's ability

To receive God's revelation

~~Has~~ varied with his ^{spiritual} ~~aptitude~~

Spiritual age - at ten he

Understands more than at

Two. The full grown Son

Give us the key which ~~unlocks~~

Unlocks the meaning of every

Chapter in the Bible. We

Hear him saying, "It used to

Be said unto you, but I say

Unto you." Any passage

Which conflicts with or

Contradicts the word of our

Lord is the result of

Immaturity of receiving

Power. As you read, keep

Reminding yourself, God

Is as good as Jesus, he

Always has he been that

~~has always been~~
God, and ever will be

Be that good.

The Bible is the Word of

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Yesterday, today and

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Age - at ten he understands

More than at two. The full

Grown Son ^{enables us to} gives us the key

Which ^{unlocks} the ^{meaning} maturity

Of every chapter. We hear

^{Jesus} saying, "It used to be

Said, but I say unto you."

The mind of Christ, and

His spirit must be our

Constant guide.

Grown Son enables us to

Measure the maturity of

Every chapter. We hear

Jesus saying, "It used to

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You." The mind of Christ,

And his spirit, must be

Our constant guide.

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One tragedy of the modern Sunday is that many people go to church without expectation. It simply does not occur to ^{them} that something miraculous may happen ~~while~~ ^{they are} in the sanctuary, that they may meet the Eternal face to face, that a profounder understanding of Christ may burst upon them, and that they may go out with power and joy to face the problems of life. And we preachers sometimes proclaim the Good News in half-hearted manner with little ^{anticipation,} ~~expectation~~, with little ~~anticipation of transformation~~ ^{anticipation} expectation that our words will be surcharged with the very power of God unto conviction and transformation of some individual in the congregation.

"Prepare to meet thy God" is a familiar billboard exhortation. These words ought to be inscribed upon hearts of ministers and members alike as they enter the house of worship. "Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God," was the mighty slogan of the student movement in the last generation. Because we do not expect enough, we do not attempt enough. It is impossible to maintain zest in futility. If something vital is to happen, we must expect it to happen.

We ^{need} ~~require~~ frequent reminders of what we really believe. We do believe in the wisdom and love and power of God. We have confidence in the promise of our Lord that the Holy Spirit will guide us. We admit that God in Christ can utterly transform our lives. Let us, therefore, practice awareness, practice expectancy, and practice attempting great things for God.

over

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Helping us to ^{conquer} ~~overcome~~ difficulties and to climb over obstacles is God's way of ^{maturity} ~~frustrating~~ achieving ~~stability~~ of character. Ease of living and sloth of endeavor can produce only flabbiness. ~~Continuous application and~~ Constant practice is ^{exacted} the price ~~required~~ for utmost skill, even for a genius in music or art or science. Steady ^{growth} ~~progress~~ toward the ^{likeness} ~~character~~ of Christ ^{requires serious loss of effort} ~~is an arduous journey and must be taken seriously.~~

^{in the fresh translation of Phillips,} And so we read the challenge of our Lord: "Go in by the narrow gate. For the wide gate has a broad road which leads to disaster and there are many people going that way. The narrow gate and the hard road led out into life and only a few find it." In the Letter of James we read: "When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives, my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become men of mature character with the right sort of independence."

In the Letter to Rome, we heard Saint Paul pleading: "With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg of you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the Plan of God for ~~you~~ you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity."

Keep on seeking, continue knocking at the door ^{with and by God's aid,} ~~and~~ you will find your way into life indeed.

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The grace of God is the costly offering of his love and forgiveness and power to undeserving sinners, even while they live ^{rebelliously} ~~stubbornly~~ as prodigals far from home. The grace of God cannot be earned, it is an unmerited gift from holy love. It is bestowed for the sole reason that it is the nature of God to grant it.

The grace of God finds its ^{supreme} incarnation in the cross of Christ. Jesus was no actor faultlessly reading the lines of a script prepared for him. ~~His acting was not~~ ^{He} ~~acted for a reason, and God never used him as a typewriter.~~ ^{walked} the way of the cross because, under all the circumstances, love and fidelity moved him in this direction. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly," for the ungodly, for the undeserving. Love is poured freely because it is love.

No more terrible distortion is ^{conceivable} ~~possible~~ than the theory of the atonement, which ^{presents} ~~distorts~~ the death of Jesus on the cross as necessary to appease the ~~merciless~~ ^{permissible} wrath of an angry God, and ~~to~~ make it morally ^{permissible} ~~necessary~~ for him to forgive sinners. The grace of God was ^{revealed} ~~expressly manifested~~ on the cross. Jesus' prayer ^{itself} for the forgiveness of the men who were killing him was prompted by the grace of God. Saturate your mind ^{indelibly} ~~intensely~~ with the truth that God is as good as Jesus.

O for a thousand tongues
to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and
King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Hear Him, ye deaf; His
praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongue
employ;
Ye blind, behold your
Saviour come;
And leap, ye lame,
for joy. (C. Wesley)

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"With a great price, obtained I this freedom,"
exclaimed a Roman ^{judge} ~~slave~~ to Saint Paul. And every
privilege we enjoy has cost somebody something. We live
in a moral universe where there is an inexorable law of
the harvest. Reaping always comes from sowing, but no
solitary figure ever brought in the harvest. We reap
together, as we sow together. Life is corporate. We are
bound together, cannot live in seclusion and do not die in
isolation. Our virtues and our sins alike flow into the
lives of others.

The corporate nature of life is yet more significant.
What God does influences us, and what we do brings joy or
grief to the heart of the Eternal. The records of human
doings is full of parental exultation over the glorious
achievements of sons and daughters, and likewise full of
paternal anguish and maternal agony over the pain and shame
of their children. And so it is with God. There is joy
in heaven and there is much suffering ⁱⁿ ~~the heart~~ ^{experience} of our
Father.

Because God is love, pure untarnished love, he is bound ^{tightly}
to every sufferer. He is the vine and we are the branches.
The stuff of life flows from him into us and back into his
soul. When we sin, he grieves; when we are stricken, his
heart throbs in affection. God suffered with Jesus on the
cross, and he enters into every human experience of bliss and
degradation. Therefore, rise, shine and give God glory!

Men grip the seat^s in front of them, their knuckles white with
~~the~~ intensity, ~~and their~~ their faces strained by the depth of their
emotion. The young voice travels on: "O dearly, dearly has
he loved,^a and we must love him, too,^a And trust in his redeeming
blood,^a and try his works to do." The solist forgets to bow. There
is no applause - only a great silence.

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Mysterious beyond all comprehension is the impact of human song upon the spirit of man. Enter into this experience, as narrated by Leslie D. Weatherhead:

The scene is the Queen's Hall, London. A cultured ~~audience~~^{or} audience has gathered to listen a concert. One of the ~~items~~^{number} on the program is a song by a young girl whose name is unknown. ~~She is making her first appearance before the critical musical world of London.~~ She sings, with perfect voice and that artless grace which is the height of art, a song which she has practiced ~~many hours~~^{long}. After deafening applause, she sings the same song again. The audience demands more. She goes on to the platform. The noise and tumult and cheering subside. In perfect stillness she begins: "There is a green hill far away, ^uwithout a city wall, ^uwhere the dear Lord was crucified, ^uwho died to save us all." She sings it to Gounod's glorious setting. The effect is electrical. It is a long time since many of those who listen have heard any religious message, and a very long time indeed since they have heard the ~~message~~^{word} of the Cross. The beautiful voice goes on: "We may not know, we cannot tell, ^uthat pains he had to bear, ^ubut we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there." The silence becomes almost tangible. The tension is almost more than people can bear, and still the voice goes on: ~~He died to make us good, That we might go at last to heaven, saved by His precious blood.~~ "There was no other good enough ^uto pay the price of sin; He only could unlock the gate of Heaven, and let us in." There are not many dry eyes.

over

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Less than ten percent of our latent possibilities are released into actual life. We pass through this world with our faculties poorly trained and ineffectually utilized. When our worst is contrasted with our best, and when comparison is made between the most primitive man and the individual with highest genius, we catch a glimpse of the ⁱⁿillimitable range of life.

Clearer than anyone else Jesus ~~thought~~ realized the unlimited possibilities of life created in God's image and blessed ^{God's} ~~man~~ with ~~God's~~ guidance and power. Almost incredible are his own words: "Truly, truly I tell you, he who believes in me will do the very deeds I do, and still greater deeds than these." ~~For I am going to the Father, and I will do whatever you ask in my name.~~ And in the First Epistle of John we read: ~~And here is the love that perfects us, that we may have the Father's love in us, that we may remain in His love and His love in us, that we may have the Father's love in us, that we may remain in His love and His love in us.~~ "Here and now we are God's children. We don't wait for the future. We only know that, if reality were to break through, we should reflect His likeness, for we should see Him as He really is!"

Life is boundless, ~~and limitless~~ as we reminded by William Temple: "It is surely quite clear that if anyone had studied the world before there was life on it he could never have predicted life; if he had studied vegetation he would never have predicted animal life; if he had studied the animal world he would never have predicted human civilization and the arts; and if he studied the selfishness of mankind he could never have predicted a life of perfect and selfless love."

The constant factor is the wisdom and power and love of God; the variant is the degree of human sensitivity, responsiveness and commitment.

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"Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which

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These beautiful lines about
The glory of a skylark were
Penned by Shelley thirteen
Decades ago, and have been
Declained by successive
Generations of schoolboys.
"Hail to thee, blithe spirit,
Bird thou never were,
That from heaven, or near it,
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of
unpremeditated art.
Higher and still higher,
From the earth thou springest

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LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

Handwritten signature

God has got behind it &
He is shining thru.
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Memory is a source of power and joy to the human soul.
From the past we draw nourishment and satisfaction as we live
over again ^{old} ~~past~~ experiences. ~~Let this prose poem of~~
~~John Ruskin prompt your own memory:~~ No H

"The storm swept finally to the north, and the noble outlines
of the domes of Albano rose against pure streaks of alternate blue
and amber, the upper sky gradually flushing through the last fragments
of rain-cloud in deep, palpitating azure, half ether and half dew.
~~The noon-day sun came slanting down the rocky slopes of La Rocca,~~
~~and its masses of entangled and tall foliage, whose autumnal tints~~
~~were mixed with the wet verdure of a thousand evergreens, were~~
~~penetrated with it as with rain.~~

"I cannot call it color, it was conflagration. Purple and
crimson and scarlet, like the curtains of God's tabernacle; the
rejoicing trees sank into the valley in showers of light, every
separate leaf quivering with buoyant and burning life; each, as
it turned to reflect or to transmit the sunbeam, first a torch and
then an emerald. Far up into the recesses of the valley, the
green vistas arched like the hollows of mighty waves of some
crystalline sea, with the arbutus flowers dashed along their
flanks for foam, and silver flakes of orange spray tossed into
the air around them, breaking over the gray walls of rock into
a thousand separate stars. Every blade of grass burned like
the golden floor of heaven, opening in sudden gleams as the
foliage broke and closed above it, as sheet-lightning opens in
a cloud at sunset."

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall
praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky and sea!"

No

duplicate

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Richard Roberts was one of the great preachers of the past generation, holding pulpits in London, New York, Toronto and Montreal. Listen to his word about the cross of Christ:

"The end was inevitable. The ecclesiastical authorities had made up their minds that Jesus should die... Jesus was hurried to Golgotha and there was crucified. And so far as Caiaphas and Pilate were concerned, the trouble was over. Yet we face this amazing paradox - that ever since that day the incident on Calvary has stood out as the most significant event recorded in history...

"What indignity and injustice a man might suffer, He suffered; false witness, crooked judgment, insult and derision - all came to Him.. He had come through the mire of hate and lies, and it had left neither spot nor stain on His love; and the final insult of the crucifixion left it untouched and undiminished. 'Courage in strife,' says Mr. H. M. Tomlinson, 'is common enough; even the dogs have it. But the courage which can face ultimate defeat of a life of good will and yet crave forgiveness for a wild and angry mob, because ignorance has no light, that is different. That is victory, if that fine word has any meaning at all.'

"Here lies the primary power of the Cross - this spectacle of a love that would not let go of man and of a faith that would not let go of God... To love when hate is trampling you under foot in its mud, to go on trusting God, when your dearest hope lies dead, as Jesus did - this is the final splendour of personality." And this is the clearest revelation of the character of God. God is this good.

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If you would deepen your appreciation of the sheer goodness of God, reflect upon the quality of life exhibited by the best members of the best human families ever to live on this earth. Then remind yourself that all this superior love is merely a faint reflection of the character of God, whose ^{holiness} ~~goodness~~ is as far above human goodness as we are distant from the most remote point in space.

The most moving record of a mother's devotion to her children, the ~~most~~ ^{est} tender story of a husband's care of his wife, the ^{loveliest} ~~account~~ ~~of all human friendship~~ - ~~all~~ these point to the goodness of God. So it is not strange that ~~God~~ ^{our Father} loves the wicked while they are wicked, and that he forgives the erring ~~in~~ ^{and thus prompts} ~~repentance~~ ^{repentance}, and that he seeks the lost until he finds.

~~Three hundred years ago Thomas Traherne exclaimed:~~

Truly we are members of the divine family, dwelling with our loved ones in the mansion of God. Three hundred years ago Thomas Traherne exclaimed: "Your enjoyment of the world is never right, till every morning you awake in Heaven; see yourself in your Father's Palace, and look upon the skies, the earth and the air as Celestial Joys: having such a reverend esteem of all as if you were among the angels. Till you can sing and rejoice and delight in God, as misers do in gold, and Kings in scepters, you never enjoy the world."

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." *Beginning*

in me, dear God, beginning in me!

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Deep down in his soul every man longs for a cause to which he can give himself with utmost devotion. A mother is willing to make any sacrifice for her children, and a patriot will pay any price for the preservation of liberty. In an oft-quoted challenge to young Italians, Garibaldi cried out, "I am going out from home, I offer neither quarters, nor provisions, nor wages. I ^{offer} ~~ask~~ hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles and death. Let him who loves his country with his heart and not his lips only follow me." In every land and in every century this challenge has met with passionate response.

And this is the summons of our Lord Jesus. He offers men a cause which is worthy of their all. He ~~calls~~ calls disciples and with entire frankness warns them of trouble ahead. If with fresh minds we could read the record of the requirements of discipleship, we would realize that Jesus is appealing to the most fervent yearning of the human heart - a cause big enough to demand everything. Render full obedience to God and do his will at any cost, and enter into life. Consider these familiar words, "If anyone wants to go with me, he must disregard himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to preserve his own life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for me and for the good news will preserve it... I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God."

The Christian requirement is total allegiance to Jesus Christ in doing the ^{loving} ~~truly~~ will of God.

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By Kirby Page

Man is a mysterious creature, with innate urges which defy logic. One of his most powerful drives is a sense of duty, an impulse to do what "ought" to be done.

Dr. Hideyo Noguchi became the embodiment of this feeling of solemn obligation. In childhoods ~~his~~^{the} fingers of his left hand were ~~burned~~^{terribly}. In spite of this handicap, and because his father was a drunkard, he was compelled to work long hours. A Japanese doctor noticed ~~that~~ Hideyo's crippled hand, began to treat it, and created in the boy a desire to be a doctor. ~~After~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~looked~~ ~~at~~ ~~a~~ ~~gang~~ ~~cell~~ ~~under~~ ~~a~~ ~~microscope~~ ~~and~~ ~~prompted~~ ~~the~~ ~~decision~~ ~~to~~ ~~become~~ ~~a~~ ~~bacteriologist~~. In Tokyo with painful application he earned a meager living and passed his medical examination. After three years at ^{the} medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, he studied in Europe. ^{Much of his} ~~His~~ renowned research work was done at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City. In his efforts to eradicate yellow fever he journeyed to Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. When Dr. Stokes died of yellow fever in Africa, Noguchi felt impelled to take his colleague's place and complete his researches there. In 1928 at the age of fifty-one, with a bad heart and afflicted with diabetes, in spite of the ^{warnings} ~~protests~~ of his colleagues, he insisted on sailing for Africa. Within a few weeks he contracted the scourge and died.

Full of mystery is ~~the~~ human determination to take the path of duty at the risk of one's own life. The religious answer is simple - the sense of "oughtness" is implanted deep within man by the living God. Greater love hath no man than ^{this,} that he lay down his life for others, said our Lord.

No 231

Of course, there is a hell. But the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ never sent any man there. All who go to
hell, go in spite of utmost effort on ^{his} ~~our Father's~~ part to keep
them out of it. ^{Damnation} ~~Hell~~ is wrong relationship, ^{Salvation} ~~heaven~~ is right
relationship. Heaven and hell are states of being, *consequences of choices made,*
^{we} ~~as~~ love God and neighbor and enemy we are saved. God never
leaves anything undone that he can do to bring about the salvation
of every person in this wide universe. It is not God's will that
a single individual should be lost. Let us live by the conviction
that God is utterly wise and wholly good, *and that we are*
morally responsible.

OF COURSE,
YES, THERE IS A HELL

duplicate

By Kirby Page

Christians have universally believed in the righteousness of God, but often they have held distorted ideas of his holiness and his justice. Nowhere is this made plainer than in their ideas of hell. Many Christians have believed in hell as ~~vision~~ a lake of literal fire, in which unrepentant sinners are burned throughout eternity. It has long been maintained that holiness and justice require that a loving God mete out everlasting punishment to recalcitrant sinners.

After an extensive reading of the literature of the torments of hell, Lecky the British historian says: "It is impossible to conceive more ghastly, grotesque, and material conceptions of the future ~~world~~ world than they evince, or more hideous calumnies against that Being who was supposed to inflict upon His creatures such unspeakable misery. Daemons with hooks of red-hot iron plunged souls alternately into fire and ice. Some of the lost were hung by their tongues, others were sawn asunder, others boiled and then strained through a cloth." ~~It is indeed one of the most curious things in moral history, to observe how men who were sincerely indignant with Pagan writers for attributing to their divinities the frailties of an occasional jealousy or an occasional sensuality, have nevertheless unscrupulously attributed to their own Divinity a degree of cruelty which may be confidently said to transcend the utmost barbarity of which human nature is capable" - even beyond the cruelty of Nero or Hitler or Stalin.~~

over

at least

Let us live by the conviction that God is as good as Jesus was good when on the cross he prayed for the men who were torturing him; always God has been that good; and ever will he be that good.

No. 278

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Men have traveled many roads in their search for God. Often they have resorted to flight from society. In the ~~next~~ ~~days~~ days of Jesus, small colonies of Essenes, who had despaired of the world, were living as celibates on the edge of ^{desolation.} ~~the desert.~~ An exodus of consecrated Christians to the desert occurred in the third and fourth centuries. Anthony of Egypt ⁱⁿ ~~an~~ early life renounced his earthly fortune, fled to the ^{wilderness,} ~~desert,~~ spent ~~his~~ the remainder of his days ⁱⁿ ~~life~~ in prayer and contemplation, his solitude of more than seventy years being unbroken save for three brief visits to comfort Christians persecuted by Rome and to refute heretics within the church. Paul of Thebes spent ninety years in solitude in the desert. Simeon Stylites lived atop of a sixty-foot pillar for thirty years. Only once in forty-two years did Daniel the Stylite descend from his high pillar. Beasrion spent forty days and nights in the midst of thorn-bushes, and for forty years never laid down when he slept. Thousands of devout men and women mutilated their own bodies and subjected themselves to countless forms of self-torture. Chapters in the lives of some of the saints read ^{as if} ~~like~~ descriptions from chambers of horrors. Chastity and celibacy were so exalted that John of Lycopolis refused to look ^{for forty-eight years} upon the face of a woman. Many cases are recorded of refusal to talk even with mother or sister.

Nowadays we turn in abhorrence from this record of self-torture and self-denial. But we must realize that what was pleasing to God was the passionate longing for divine companionship, and the rigor with which they sought to bring the body under control of the spirit. And well may we inquire of ourselves: how seriously do we practice the presence of God? how fervent is our praying? how effective is the discipline exercised by our ^{spirits} ~~selves~~ over our bodies?

THE RANGE OF HUMAN NATURE

~~LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

Man at his best is little lower than the angels, and at his worst is more ferocious and callous than the wild beasts of the jungle. Human capacity for cruelty is illustrated in the centuries of gladiatorial combats in ancient Rome. Beast was pitted against beast, beast against man, and man against man. Under Nero four hundred tigers fought with bulls and elephants, and at the dedication of the Colosseum five thousand animals slew one another. On a single day, Caesar sent ten thousand gladiators into the arena. Listen to ^{this} ~~the~~ indictment by ~~the~~ Lecky the historian: "That not only men but women ^{should} ~~in~~ ~~an~~ ~~advanced~~ period of civilization should have made the carnage of men their habitual amusement, that all this should have continued for centuries with scarcely a protest, is one of the most startling facts in moral history ... and displays ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~any~~ ~~more~~ philosophical disquisition the abyss of depravity into which it is possible for human nature to sink." Yet, "the very men who looked down with delight when the sand of the arena was reddened with human blood, made the theater ring with applause when Terence, in his famous line, proclaimed the universal brotherhood of man."

Human capacity for cruelty ^{Callous} ~~is~~ is abundantly illustrated in centuries of religious wars, ^{the} the torture of heretics, the treatment of slaves, the ^{massacre} ~~slaughter~~ of ^{whites} ~~Indians~~, the execution of criminals, Mussolini's bombing of the villages of Ethiopia, Hitler's gas chambers, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the prevailing practice of seeking national security through the threat of massive retaliation with atomic and hydrogen weapons.

Man is in desperate need of a Savior! God so loved that he gave, and ever continues to give! What a sorrow and a shame that so often ^{we} close our minds and our hearts against him!

men by
Indians,
and
whites
by
men

NINE
FAN THE FLAME

duplicate

~~WILLIAM P. PAGE~~

By Kirby Page

It has been said that "life is pure flame, and we live by an invisible sun within us." Imagination is its name, the illumination which comes from projection. Imagination gives us wings with which to traverse land and sea and air, to dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth, and in radiant fellowship with the living God.

Jesus taught his disciples to live imaginatively, to do unto others as you would have them do to you. That is, enter into the experience of others, and view life from that perspective. Compassion is concern merged with imagination. Commitment is teaming-up the power of will and imagination. Adoration is reverence fused with imagination.

Yes, "life is pure flame," and its brilliance may be fanned by imagination. Wise is the person who seeks opportunity to experience the blending of silence and beauty and imagination, who arranges for leisure to enjoy music and ideas and vision. And happy is the individual whose power of identification enriches communion with God and fellowship with man. Life is ^{ennobled} ~~enriched~~ and made holy by time exposures of the human spirit to the beautiful, the harmonious, the true, the good.

How stupid of us to be taken prisoner by fleshly appetite and worldly ambition! We are made for rapture. Day by day we may be led by imagination into moods of wonder and awe, gratitude and thanksgiving, into the sheer joy of being alive, as the eyes of the heart are enlightened. Train your imagination to keep trimmed the wicks of the flame of life, and walk joyously as guided by the Inner Light!

No.

ACTIVITY AND INFLOW

duplicate

~~WILLIAM KIRBY PAGE~~

By Kirby Page

The road to hell may be paved with good works. Busy-ness in noble causes does not carry a guarantee of salvation. To those who were sure of their own righteousness, Jesus said bluntly: "I never knew you! Go away from me, you who ^{do} wrong!" A woman of distinction once consulted the Abbe Huvelin about her spiritual health, and received this advice: "Madam, I beseech you to mistrust your zeal for doing good to other people." Martin Luther once said that he feared good works more than his sins.

A special danger comes to men and women who carry the burden of church activities, a subtle temptation to substitute the outward for the inner, to value activity and to neglect interior replenishing. For every Christian who prays too much there are ten thousand who pray too little. And the rejoinder is not convincing that one can pray in the midst of activity. Of course, ^{we} ~~we~~ can and ^{we} ~~we~~ should. But these fragments of prayer are no adequate substitute for unhurried and reverent adoration, for leisurely reflection upon the goodness and holiness of God and praise to him for countless blessings received, for sustained self-examination under divine eyes, for vivid awareness of the contrast between present spiritual condition and the future possibility of growth, for the cry of confession and the appeal to be forgiven, for fresh commitment to the doing of God's will, for fervent intercession in behalf of loved ones and those in special need and those who carry the burden of public office, for quiet and intent listening to the still small voice, and for the sheer exaltation of an unbroken experience of the presence of God.

Being is prior to doing. Overflow nourishes the good life.

No. 260

Duplicate

~~LEAVING WITH PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

91

One of the mysteries of life is the genius with which some individuals are born - some with genius for mathematics, some for art, some for poetry. Arturo Toscaniⁿⁱ was born with genius for music, although his father was an obscure tailor in Italy. When graduating from the conservatory, he received the highest possible ratings in cello, piano and composition.

Even at this early age ~~Toscanini~~ Toscanini possessed a memory so amazing that accounts of it seem utterly incredible. Soon this memory was to be given dramatic expression. He sailed for South America with an opera company, as cellist and an assistant chorus master. On the first night at Rio de Janeiro the performance was a disgraceful failure, due to bitter controversy between the conductor and the musicians. The next night a hostile crowd created a near riot. In desperation the management accepted a suggestion that perhaps Toscanini could quiet the mob and conduct the performance. At that time he was nineteen and had never conducted an opera. Nevertheless, from ~~memory~~^{memory}, without once opening the score, he led in the presentation of Aida. The audience simply went wild in acclamation, as audiences continued to do for the next sixty-five years. In the great opera houses of the continents he conducted from memory. The joy he brought to listeners is beyond all measurement.

N. Page

duplicate

IT IS MORE BLESSED

~~LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

Validation of the truth spoken by Jesus that "whoever loses his life for me and for the good news will preserve it" is found in a recent issue of a popular journal. The good news of God is that the way of sharing leads to abundant life. Human nature being what God made it, self-centeredness is moral and spiritual death, while self-giving is the essence of life itself.

An exposition of this text is contained in an article in The Readers Digest on "America's Amazing Women." There is evidence that in this country there are twenty million volunteer and unpaid women workers in humane causes - churches, welfare agencies, hospitals, Red Cross, Girl Scouts, Junior Leagues, YWCA. These millions of volunteers serve in a thousand ways to relieve pain, aid the needy, drive away loneliness, counsel the distressed, provide enjoyment. Many of these women are generous with ^{own} their financial contributions, but far more redemptive is the gift of themselves.

Professor Sorokin of Harvard set up a laboratory to assess the significance of "good neighbors" and found that volunteers are the salt of American society, that sharing is a blessing alike to give and receiver, and is "the best therapeutic method for securing peace of mind, meaningful happiness, real freedom, and creative power for the giver."

Long ago Jesus told his disciples: "Give, and they will give to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, they will pour into your lap. For the measure you use with others they in turn will use with you."

No. 294

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

That the darkest hour may come just before dawn is illustrated in the life of George Frederick Handel. At the age of fifty-six, he announced in despair that his last concert would be given on April 8, 1741. Twenty weeks later he began composing "The Messiah" and completed it ^{within} during a month.

Handel was a German who became a naturalized citizen of England. He was born in 1685 and died in 1759. His father was a barber-surgeon who served with various armies. He had nothing but contempt for music, and endeavored to prevent George Frederick from becoming a musician. Secretly the boy practiced. He was such a natural prodigy that a prince prevailed upon his father to permit him to study under a master musician.

His first opera was produced at the age of twenty, and ^{in all} ~~by 1710~~ he ~~had~~ composed more than forty operas. He came to London at the age of twenty-five, and ^{was} ~~became~~ naturalized. ~~in 1710~~ ¹⁷¹² ~~But~~ ^{his} theater closed its doors, bankrupt, and he was smitten with temporary paralysis. His creditors seized him and he was threatened with imprisonment. Only the disgrace of a public benefit performance in his behalf kept him from prison.

In desperation, Handel accepted an invitation to give a series of concerts in Ireland. There he was received with enthusiasm. On April 12, 1742, the first performance of "The Messiah" took place. Nine years later he was stricken with blindness. He expressed a hope that he might die on Good Friday. His wish was fulfilled, and ^{Saturday} on Holy he passed into the beyond, leaving behind him an imperishable legacy of glorious music.

No.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

You will be aroused to serious thought by these challenging words from ~~the great~~ Joseph Fort Newton, one of America's great preachers:

"Let us now state the facts starkly, even if they shock and hurt us. Jesus brought beauty and blessing into the world - only blessing - alike for the body and the soul; healing the hurts of life, bearing its woes, casting out its evil spirits; teaching the truth which sets men free from sin and fear and loneliness. He lived in self-sending devotion to His fellows, seeking to set up the reign of God in the hearts and homes of men. Yet as a reward for His life of love, the world put Him to a brutal and shameful death - cruel, ghastly, as if he had been a man of crime...

"Add now the further fact that this thing was deliberately done, at the end of a long, elaborate, studied conspiracy of calumny, attacking His person and His character. The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not; indeed it tried to blot it out. No weapon was left ^{unused,} ~~unused~~ lying, bribery, perjury, and the most vicious slander, in order to destroy Him as a subversive agitator.

"How could such things be? How could men call good evil, and evil good? Who were so blind that they could not see the most beautiful thing on earth - a ^{Teacher} ~~Teacher~~ of genius, young, strong, loving life, giving Himself in sacrificial toil and suffering for those too ignorant to know, too blind to see, too stolid to feel? Who did ^{so} ~~so~~ unbelievable a thing, and why? Again, we must face the fact - we cannot evade it - they were pious people, the religious leaders of the nation, the church!"

No. 251

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

"There is no fact in the history of the human mind more remarkable than the complete unconsciousness of the importance and the destinies of Christianity, manifested by the Pagan writers before the accession ^{of} Constantine." Thus writes a modern historian ~~writing of~~, who goes on to contrast the ample information they have given us concerning the growth of Roman luxury, with their almost absolute silence concerning the growth of Christianity. ~~Marcus Aurelius, perhaps the noblest of the Emperors, has left on record in his Meditations his contempt for the Christian martyrs.~~

The law of the harvest is full of mystery. Things are not always what they seem. How quickly the empire of Alexander the Great disintegrated and collapsed, and how rapidly the kingdom ^{absolute appeared} of the Lord Jesus spread! (How ~~weak~~ the power of Pontius Pilate the Roman governor as he sent Jesus to the cross of torture, and how pitifully feeble seemed his victim writhing in anguish!) "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

The triumph of ~~the~~ early Christians was all the more ^{a long time} amazing because for ~~many decades~~ there were no church buildings, ~~and~~ no professional clergymen, and few members of wealth. ~~and the poor~~ ~~social standing~~. The good news spread by contagion, from individual to individual, as laymen went about their daily tasks and as they traveled in the course of their business. ~~It was by what we now call personal evangelism that church membership~~ ^{of worship} ~~expanded so rapidly.~~ Services were conducted in homes and were led by laymen. Thus we find Saint Paul writing to the Corinthians: "... not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong."

O Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief!

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The Bible is a book of Life, but it has ^{often} ~~also~~ been so used as to become a book of Death. On the authority of the eighteenth verse of the twenty-second chapter of Exodus, thousands of women in many lands were tortured and burned at the stake, for it says plainly: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."

for centuries ^{the} doctrine of A passage of Scripture was ^{the} foundation of the divine right of kings, for the thirteenth chapter of Romans begins: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; ^{and they that resist shall receive to themselves} ~~damnation.~~" The right of even the worst tyrants ^{justified} to rule was defended on the ground that he was God's agent on the throne. So ~~"subjects are no fit judges of the goodness or badness of a prince: rebelling is not a single sin but the puddle and sink of all sins against God and man."~~ King and Kaiser and Czar long used this passage in Romans as authority for their ^{that} demand ~~for support from~~ ^{fight all} their subjects ~~to do the same~~ they waged. *pay every tax and fight every war*

The fifth chapter of Ephesians was for centuries used as a chain to ^{bind} ~~hold~~ women in subjection to men, for it says: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is head of the church, ^{and he is the saviour of the body."}

over The Bible is a book of Life when it is read as a record of man's understanding of the revelation of God. Every passage ^{immaturity or} ~~may~~ ^{degree of maturity} be tested for maturity by the mind of Christ. Every chapter should be read with the realization that the character of God has always been as good as Jesus was good when on the cross he prayed for the men who were torturing him.

considered
A hundred other passages, when ~~numbers~~ the infallible
word of God himself, have been used in defense of torture,
war, slavery and other iniquities.

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

In his monumental work, "The History of Primitive Christianity," Johannes Weiss writes: "The early Christians felt themselves to be witnesses and participants in the mighty world-drama, which was moving on toward its climax before their very eyes. The Messiah is for them not merely the King of the Jews, or of the whole world; ~~the King of the Jews, or of the whole world;~~ ~~with things into subjection to God;~~ he stands close to them personally, he is their beloved Lord and Master, ~~and the~~ ~~relation of discipleship is carried on upon a higher level.~~ From this source was derived the warmth and inwardness, the strongly personal element in the new religion. ⁹⁷ "The boldness and the rejoicing recorded upon every page of the New Testament, are rooted in the feeling that they are servants of a mighty Lord. We shall never grasp the Christ-religion of the primitive church as something genuine and real unless we steadily take into account the continuing influence of the personality of Jesus, so strong, and so sure of himself. Throughout the opening chapters of the Book of Acts we catch a note of joyful exultation. Unless one can understand this constant mood of victorious, jubilant happiness and confidence, he simply will not understand primitive Christianity. A tempestuous enthusiasm, an overwhelming intensity of feeling, an immediate awareness of the presence of God, an incomparable sense of power and an irresistible control over the will and inner spirit ~~and even the physical~~ ~~operation of the~~ - these are ineradicable features of historic early Christianity. Jesus' power over their souls was now at last fully realized. This is the personal and moral basis of the overpowering enthusiasm which welled up among them and overflowed like a flood into the spiritual life of mankind."

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the ^{today} world." Are we - really?
^

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

If we are to understand the religion of Jesus, we must ~~understand the contrast~~ realize the contrast between his approach and that of the ecclesiastical leaders of his day. In the Gospel of Mark we read: "They were amazed at his way of teaching, for he taught with the ring of authority, quite unlike the Scribes."

Professor George Foot Moore, in his monumental two-volume work, "Judaism," has this illuminating passage: "The foundation of Judaism is the belief that religion is revealed. Specific commandments had been given to Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Jacob; to Moses the complete revelation was given once for all. The prophets who came after him repeated, explained, emphasized, applied, what was revealed to Moses; they added nothing to it. The rabbinical schools had no theory of the mode of prophetic inspiration; but it was with them an uncontested axiom that every syllable of Scripture had the verity and authority of the word of God. ~~Unbelievers that the contents of the sacred books were throughout contentaneous, homogeneous. There were not only no contradictions in them but no real differences.~~ The notion of progressive revelation was impossible: the revelation to Moses was complete and final; no other prophet should ever make any innovation in the law. Inspiration being thenceforth a thing of the past, men had the ancient word of God in the Scripture that had come down from former times, ~~a closed body of books differing from all others in possessing the quality of inspiration.~~"

The ring of authority in the teaching of Jesus came from experience. God was more real to him than any human being could be, and day by day he received ^{divine} the revelation. ~~of God~~ Moreover, he promised his disciples that they also would be guided by the revelation of the Holy Spirit, ~~of God~~. God has never left himself without a witness, and he will continue speaking ^{directly} to men until the end of eternity.

August 12th

Dear Louise:

We suggest the following route:

Saturday - September 10th
Trinidad

Drive to ~~Las~~ and spend night there.
200 miles

Sunday - September 11th

Drive 250 miles to Albuquerque and spend night there. This is a beautiful drive over high mountain pass.

Monday - September 12th

Drive ~~for~~ 414 miles to Grand Canyon. This is over a high plateau with little mountain climbing, through Indian country.

Tuesday - September 13th

Drive about 300 miles to Blythe, California. The last 100 miles of this will be desert and hot. You may want to time yourself to reach Blythe about midnight.

Wednesday - September 14th

Drive about 200 miles to La Habra Heights. From Blythe to Indio is desert but not too hot in the morning. Follow US 60 through Riverside to Pomona, and then our map.

Leave for L. D.

by 4 PM

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Listen to this cry of distress from St. Paul: "I cannot understand my own actions; I do not act as I desire to act; on the contrary, I do what I detest... Miserable wretch that I am." Mortal man is part animal and part angel. His animal appetites clamor for ^{indulgence,} ~~satisfaction~~, while his spirit yearns for holiness. All of us in varying degrees are like the patient with multiple personality, with three sets of experiences, memories and traits of character, identified by the attending physician as Woman, Saint and Devil. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are among the best known characters of fiction because they represent the experiences of so many readers.

Desperate is our need of power, power to escape the tyranny of our ^{and selfish ambitions,} physical appetites, power to translate our noblest impulses ^{and highest ideals} ~~into~~ into behavior. In the New Testament we find recorded the faith that Christianity is a religion of power, the power of God unto salvation. Jesus knew himself to be the vehicle of irresistible power, and sought to prepare his disciples to be clean channels ~~open~~ ^{transforming} through which this power could flow into the lives of others. We fail to understand St. Paul ^{when} ~~if~~ we stop with his confession, "Miserable wretch that I am!" He continues: "Who will rescue me from this body of death? God will! Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

God will - to the degree that ^{voluntarily} ~~we are free to~~ we open all our faculties to his guidance and empowering. The requirement is alertness and resolute endeavor. Day by day we must practice the presence of God until we want to do what he wants us to do above every ^{other} ~~other~~ desire.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Abstract ideas about God are inadequate as a basis of reverent worship and devoted service. Christianity is therefore a religion of Incarnation, the Word became flesh and dwelt among men, "reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character." To say that God is as good as Jesus is to utter an incomplete truth. The love and forgiveness of God are beyond even the spirit of Christ on the cross. The longing of a human father for the return of a prodigal son, the fidelity of ~~the~~ a shepherd in search of a lost sheep - these images are pale reflections of the initiative God takes and the fervor with which he seeks our wellbeing. The Spirit of God "pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words," "groanings which cannot be uttered."

Yet there are those who say that God cannot suffer because of his utter holiness and infinite perfection. Others contend that God does not "need" us any more than the tides or the cosmic forces need human response. Some say that God is the Wholly Other, so ~~transcendent~~ transcendent and far removed as to be beyond contact with human beings.

But the Christian faith is that God is at least personal, more than personal, super-personal. He is alive, thinks and loves and acts. Surely the meaning of the Incarnation is that God loves his children enough to give his most precious gift. The higher the love, the more ardently it longs for response and the more urgently it "needs" the affectionate comradeship of the beloved. It is the audacious affirmation of our religion that God needs our responsive affection, and requires our help in the completion of his holy purpose. Thus we are called upon to take life seriously.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The cure for a sense of futility and a feeling of insecurity is found in ~~the realization~~ the realization that every life is of the utmost importance to God. Say to yourself - "I am ~~the kind of person~~ the kind of person out of which the Kingdom of God is being built, and ~~you are~~ I am urgently needed as a co-worker with God and with the living Christ in divine business."

What happened in Corinth in the first century of the Christian era has happened repeatedly; ~~in many other places and successive generations.~~ "For consider, brothers, what happened when God called you. Not many of ~~you~~ you were what men call wise, not many of you were influential, not many were of high birth. But it was what the world calls foolish that God chose to put the wise to shame with, and it was what the world calls weak that God chose to shame its strength with, and it was what the world calls low and insignificant and unreal that God chose to nullify its realities."

Blessed is the man who keeps saying to himself - and living as if he believes his own words - "The living God, Creator of numberless celestial bodies and atomic universes, is infinitely more concerned about me than about the sparrow whose fall he observes. He loves me with self-giving affection beyond all human love, and knocks at the door of my individual life, and ~~keels waiting~~ ^{all} ~~meekness~~ until from within I open my faculties to him."

Utmost audacity is required to believe this, and utmost effort is demanded to build daily life upon this foundation. We must subject ourselves to continuing stimuli which prompt us to pay attention to God, to utter exclamations of gratitude and penitence many times during the day, to reserve faithfully a daily period of silence and solitude for unhurried exposure of our spirits to the Eternal, ~~to be able to resist all temptations~~ ~~and to be able to resist all temptations~~, to discipline our appetites until they are subordinated to the joy of doing what God wants us to do.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

There is a peace of mind which is empowering and over-joying, and there is a peace of mind which is blinding and paralyzing. Professor Moffatt gives this translation of Jesus' reminder to his disciples: "And if your very light turns dark, then - what a darkness it is!"

John Newton was captain of a slave-ship between Africa and the slave-markets. On ~~these~~ ^{these} journeys on the high seas ~~he~~ [^] he experienced such peace of mind that he recorded in his diary that he had never known sweeter hours of communion with God, and twice on Sunday he read the church liturgy with his crew - while packed in the hold ^{of the ship} in indescribable squalor were ~~hundreds of human beings~~ [^] ~~created in the image of God~~ ^{and precious to him beyond computation.} Once ~~the~~ [^] college in Virginia, church attended by students of Union Theological Seminary, ~~held enough slaves, which were rented out on salary~~ [^] Christmas day, to pay the ~~charge~~ [^] of the minister. How deep can darkness be?

And our children's children as they read a history of our ^{own} [^] doings will echo, How deep can darkness be? When we dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, among the one hundred thousand fatalities were probably twenty thousand babies and children. ~~And~~ [^] Year by year we appropriate billions for atomic and hydrogen weapons as an ominous threat of massive retaliation. And in prison death-chambers periodically we resort to the ancient law of eye for eye, life for life, in the execution of criminals. Probably nine Christians out of ^{States} [^] ten in the United worship God in segregated churches.

Then - what a darkness it is!

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

runs on Arab proverb.

"All sunshine makes Sahara," ^ Storms bring rain which nourishes seed in the soil. Jesus did not come to this earth to give ease and ~~inaction~~, ^{freedom from toil,} he came to ~~make men great~~ ^{help men bear} their burdens, share with others, love mercy and walk humbly ~~by helping them to maintain right relations with God and~~ with their God. ~~with their fellows.~~ He promised his disciples that they would experience much joy, the joy of fidelity to the will of God. With equal vigor he promised them much pain, the suffering which flows from faithfulness in a sinful generation.

Read against these familiar words: "And he began to teach them that it was inevitable that the Son of Man should go through much suffering and be completely repudiated by the elders and Chief Priests and Scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He told them all this quite bluntly. And this made Peter draw him on one side and take him to task about what he had said. But Jesus turned and faced his disciples and rebuked Peter. "Out of my ^u say, Satan!" he said. "Peter, you are not looking at things from God's point of view, but from man's!" Then he called his disciples and the people around him, and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps, he must give up all right to himself, take up his cross and follow me." Again, ~~he said~~ ^ "I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Narrow is the road, and straight the gate that leads to life glorious. What often appears to be foolishness in God's point of view turns out to be the essence of wisdom, and what seems to be weakness in God is found to be the strength we need.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Validation of the truth spoken by Jesus that "whoever loses his life for me and for the good news will preserve ~~that~~ it" is found in a recent issue of a popular journal. The good news of God is that ~~sharing~~ the way of sharing leads to abundant life. Human nature being what God made it, self-centeredness is moral and spiritual death, while self-giving is the essence of life itself.

[illegible]

Professor Sorokin of Harvard set up a laboratory to assess the significance of "good neighbors" and found that volunteers are the salt of American society, ^{that sharing is a} blessing both ^{to} ~~the~~ giver and ^{is} ~~the~~ receiver, and "the best therapeutic method for securing peace of mind, meaningful happiness, real freedom, creative power for the giver."

Long ago Jesus charged his disciples, "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure the lepers, throw out the devils - give, as you have received, without any charge whatever." "Give

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Once in a discussion group a minister asked, "What do you do when in the ~~moment~~ act of praying you suddenly realize that you are afraid your prayer may be answered?" Dread of God, merging into fear and terror is as old as the human race. The ancient Hebrews stood in such awe of the Lord that they dared not utter the name of God. Once they entreated Moses: "You speak to us, and we will hear; but let not God speak to us, lest we die... And the people stood afar off, while Moses drew near to the thick cloud where God was."

Two reasons are responsible for much fear of God: distorted ideas as to his character, and a guilty conscience. Sometimes God has been looked upon as vengeful and ruthless against his enemies, and sometimes he has been regarded as so utterly holy that he could not tolerate sin and was obliged to destroy the unrepentant. For centuries Christian hymnology has been saturated with the idea that in God's sight man is a worm in the dust. Listen to this sentiment from the lips of Jonathan Edwards the ~~heart-rending~~ evangelist: "The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some leathsome insect, over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked... you are ten thousand times so abominable in his eyes, as the most hateful and venomous serpent is in ours."

Not so, said Jesus. God loves us when we are good and he seeks us when we are lost, he has affection for the elder son at home and for the prodigal with the swine in a far off land. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even our sins, not even death. *our hope is in the grace of God.*

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

"White ants pick a carcass cleaner than a lion." And constant anxiety of soul devours human joy and creative power. A feeling of insecurity is disastrous for child and man alike, and the sense of being ~~useless~~ and unwanted is paralyzing to human effort. "Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life."

There is a cure for anxiety and a means of its prevention, two-fold. Be laid hold upon by the realization that God needs your companionship and God needs your help. The Eternal is our heavenly Father, and his holy purpose ~~is~~ the creation of a community of fellowship. Therefore he craves the return of his own love for his children, and longs for their comradeship as co-workers in building the good society. Say to yourself - "I am needed, personally, individually, I am needed by the mighty God and loving Father of all ~~mankind~~ mankind; he cannot be fully himself without my affection, and never can he complete his work without my help." God is a lonely Father because love is always lonely when unrequited. God is unable to accomplish his full purpose alone and unaided because a Father by himself cannot create a joyous home. Say it again - "I am needed," *I really am!*

In the school of prayer and in the school of life, grade by grade, we can advance in comradeship with God. We can practice his presence by watching him at work in nature, in creatures, in human beings, in the life of our Lord, in all things beautiful and true and good. As a mighty oak grows from an acorn, so trust in God must be nurtured day by day and year after year. Pray short prayers frequently, and long prayers regularly. Walk in the light as God gives light, and from ~~simplicity~~ simple trust flows the peace of God.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Trust in the Lord with all
Thine heart, have faith in
God, is the constant plea
Of the Bible. If we weak
And sinful mortals know how
To give good gifts to our
Children, how much more
Eagerly is God doing for us
Everything that we will
Permit him to do by opening
The door when he knocks.
God is as good as Jesus,
Ever groaning over us as
Our Lord wept over the city
Of Jerusalem, always
Suffering when we are in
Trouble. God loves us so
Much that he gave his Son
For our deliverance, and
Sends the Holy Spirit to be
Our constant guide, and
Offers us the continuing
Presence of ^{the} ~~our~~ risen Lord.
Help is available from
God the Father, God in the
Son, and God through the
Holy Spirit. With ^{Saint} ~~the~~

~~With~~ Paul, we can do all ^{things}
Things needful with ^{God's} ~~his~~ aid.

Trust in the Lord with all
Thine heart, have faith in
God, because of the integrity
Of the moral order. If by
The help of God we select
Good seed, sow them in the
Earth, and faithfully ~~harvest~~
Cultivate them, a good harvest
Surely will be reaped, even
Though it appears long
Delayed.

With Robert Browning, we
May trust that
"all we have willed or hoped
or dreamed of good shall
exist;
Nor its semblance, but
itself; no beauty, nor
good, nor power

Trust in the Lord

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The records make it clear that Jesus' family came to regard him as deranged, out of his mind, "he must be mad!" The scribes and Pharisees said that he was possessed by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

Jesus, the ^{son} ~~supreme revelation~~ of God, "reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character," ~~was~~ looked upon as a madman under control of the very devil. Human vision can never become more utterly blind than that. And this was the judgment of his own relatives and of the most devout religious leaders of the day. Soon the mob was yelling, "Release unto us Barabbas" - a patriot who in armed revolt had killed a Roman - and "Crucify Jesus" - who had called upon his countrymen to love the Roman invader. ~~Not long afterward the apostle Paul was called a madman by Festus the Roman governor.~~ Marcus Aurelius was one of the most enlightened and humanitarian of the Roman emperors, yet he sought to exterminate Christianity as an enemy of the empire. ~~The early Christians were called "those who turn the world upside down."~~

In our time we glory in the faith and fortitude of Jesus and his early disciples. We sing about the faith of our fathers, and only the late editions omit the stanza, "Our fathers, chained in prisons dark, Were still in heart and conscience free: How sweet would be their children's fate, if they like them, could die for Thee!"

Yet we were first to drop an atomic bomb on a crowded city, we are spending billions upon atomic and hydrogen weapons of massive retaliation, we resort to the ancient law of an eye for an eye in dealing with criminals, our society is saturated with selfishness and greed, and to ^{a ~~substantial~~} ~~an overwhelming~~ degree our Christian churches are segregated institutions. Yea verily - "if you very light is darkness, how deep the darkness will be!"

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

We are living in age of miracles. Every decade of human history has been a time of miracles. The Eternal is ^{who} a mighty God ~~and continues his marvelous work of creation.~~
~~Nothing is too big for him to control, and nothing is too small that he cannot~~ ^{alike} ~~minute to minute~~ Miracles abound in the celestial spaces and in the inner recesses of the atom. More awesome is the human mind, but miracle of all miracles in the human spirit with its affection ^{and} devotion, fortitude and faith.

Consider the ~~late~~ wounded veteran about whom Newton Baker with talked ~~to~~ ^{Harry Emerson Fosdick} - a man with both legs gone, one arm gone, both eyes gone, his face terribly mutilated, who was wheeled around the grounds of the hospital in a perambulator, but who still was radiant and full of spirit. All the doctors thought that ~~he~~ ^{he} soon would be dead. But a miracle occurred. His indomitable ^{will} ~~determination~~ to live, a vast reservoir of hidden resources upon which he drew, and the devoted love of the nurse who became his wife combined to pull him through. More than that, several years later Johns Hopkins University held a midsemester convocation to bestow upon him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy ^{for} ~~one~~ of the most brilliant pieces of work ever done at the University. ¹⁹¹⁴ The ~~award~~ of this achievement of the human spirit ^{was} ~~was~~ matched by the wonder of his wife's love for such a physical wreck of a man.

~~Little~~ ^{N.T.} The New Testament is a record of marvelous doings in an age of miracles. ^{Not only did Jesus perform miracles, he} ~~Jesus~~ told his disciples plainly that they would do even greater ~~works~~ ^{works} - because! The Eternal is a mighty God and wondrous ^{continuing} is his work of ~~creation~~ ^{creation}.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

From the neon sign on many a church blaze these words:

Jesus Saves!

What do ~~these~~^{this} words mean? What is salvation, and how does Jesus ^save us?

Salvation is right relationship. We are saved to the degree that we love God with our entire being, love our neighbors that way, and our enemies as well. Love is self-giving concern, and we are saved ^{worship God and} as we throw ourselves away in compassionate fellowship with people. We are lost to the degree that we are self-centered. Conversion ^{leads} ~~leads~~ to salvation when it has a beginning and a continuing. Salvation is a process, and all of us are partly saved and partly lost. So it is when a man loves his wife and hates his competitor, when a Caucasian ~~maintains~~ upholds white superiority and segregates Negroes, when a patriot seeks the wellbeing of his own people by killing citizens of another country.

These are the ways in which Jesus saves us:

1. By revealing the character of God as he is disclosed nowhere else in the universe; By making plain through his own attitudes and actions and relationships the meaning of the pure grace of God.
2. By showing us the way man should live, and setting for us an example to be followed.
3. By giving us wonderful words of life in his teaching.
4. By convicting us of sin, prompting us to make confession and to accept the forgiveness of God.
5. By drawing us to himself as he ^{is} ~~he~~ lifted up on the cross of self-sacrifice, and by breaking our hearts over his unmerited suffering.
6. By journeying with us day by day as a living Presence.

Send now for 1954 series

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

A Weekly Column

By Kirby Page

Says an editorial in The Christian Advocate (Methodist): "Kirby Page's column, Living With Peace of Mind, is one of the most vital and helpful bits of writing we have seen in a long, long time."

In ~~some~~ 750 cities and towns in 45 states, ^{the series} it has been used during the past year, in the following ways: without any payment,

1. On the church page of newspapers.
2. In papers published by local churches.
3. On the back of church bulletins
4. As mimeographed insert in church bulletins.
5. In devotional meetings.
6. Mimeographed and mailed to church families
7. In radio devotional meetings.
8. Excerpts from it printed in numerous places.
9. In ~~denominational~~ journals.

In January the weekly columns for 1954 will be ready to mail.

These columns are free for the year, and will be sent postpaid. Through this medium Kirby Page is enabled to share his experiences and convictions with readers throughout the nation.

Ministers and editors desiring to use these columns ^{without payment} should send a request NOW - to help determine the size of the printing. ^

Five request cards are being enclosed, one for your own use, and four to be handed or mailed to other ministers or editors who may be interested. Please do not throw away these cards but place them where they will be used.

Even though you have been receiving the 1953 series, you should make another request if you desire to receive the 1954 series. ^{all cards}

KIRBY PAGE
Box 247, La Habra, California

A cycle of seven themes will be followed:

*Free fee to
request send
for more
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No. 222 to No. 284

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

A Weekly Column

By Kirby Page

Author of Living Creatively, Living Joyously
and 25 other books

These devotional columns are for

1. Church pages of newspapers
2. Papers published by local churches
3. On back of church bulletins
4. Radio programs
5. Devotional meetings
6. Sick visitation

They are free and will be sent upon request.
Pass the word along.

Extra sets may be obtained free for other
staff members and officials of churches.

If individuals or churches desire to send
small contributions to help extend the
circulation of these devotional readings,
every dollar will cover the cost of printing
and mailing five annual sets.

Address lists quickly get out of date. Please
notify me if your address has been changed, or if
there has been a change of address of the person to whom this copy is being
sent.

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING CRUSADE

A group here in Southern California proposes twelve weeks of concentrated effort in the churches of the nation to find the will of God and power to do it, beginning on World Communion Sunday, October 3, 1984, and continuing until Christmas Sunday.

Confusion in the minds of Christian people is a primary cause of the crisis which threatens to annihilate a considerable proportion of mankind.

Long ago our Lord pointed out that when our very lights are dark, the darkness will be deep indeed. If we cannot tell the difference between sweet and bitter, between good and evil, our actions are certain to lead to disaster. Blind leaders are now rushing the blind toward the abyss. And the fault is not chiefly with the leaders of governments, but with the religious instruction, or lack of it, given to the people in these past days.

The members of our churches are confused as to the difference between what is right in God's sight and what he knows to be wrong. They have not been sufficiently instructed in the ways of finding the will of God in specific ~~situations~~ situations, and they have not been properly guided in the search for God's power to enable them to do right.

The decisive task before the churches now is the instruction of their members. This is far more important in the immediate future than campaigns to bring in new members, as indispensable as that endeavor remains. The mind of Christ offers us the only hope of changing our disastrous course. He alone is the Light of the world.

Quickly we must learn to think as he thinks, to feel as he feels, and to follow his way wherever he leads us.

The churches must crowd an entire generation of instruction into these few months just ahead if we are to avoid the destruction of our fellows in the fury of our endeavor to defend ourselves and our values. Massive concentration upon two questions is required: How can we discover what is right in God's sight, and how can we turn on God's power to do it?

Therefore, let the minister gather together in Prayer Retreats on successive weeks, in groups of 20 to 40 ^{at a time,} his entire congregation, says on Saturdays from 2 to 9, or on Sundays 2 to 9, for prayer and conversation about the responsibility of being a Christian in this day of confusion, fear and conflict. These Retreats to be led by the minister and several mature members of the congregation.

During these twelve weeks let the minister preach a series of sermons on What is right, and how do we release God's power to do it; let the various agencies of the church concentrate on these two questions, in adult classes, youth classes and fellowships, women's societies, men's clubs, prayer groups; let a special effort be made to enroll individuals in continuing prayer-study groups of five to ten in the church and in homes; let appropriate literature dealing with these two questions be circulated.

Preparation for the crusade to begin immediately and continue until it opens. Let concerned members go two by two to visit every family in the church, interpreting the crusade and enrolling members in the proposed Prayer Retreats. Let the minister use his intervening

sermons in laying foundations for the crusade. Let every agency of the church enter into this preparatory work.

God knows what is right for us in our personal relations and in our corporate affairs. As Meister Eckhart said hundreds of years ago, God is ready and we are unready, God is willing and we are unwilling, God is a thousand times more eager to provide guidance than we are ready to follow wherever he leads us. Our minds and spirits must quickly be made ready. The Holy Spirit is yearning to guide us into all truth. The power of God is sufficient for our salvation. The hour has come for massive concentration upon two questions: What is right, and how do we get power to do it?

Duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The revelation of God in the beauty of nature is not ^{most} enough to unveil his character. The [^]satisfying disclosure of the Eternal must take the form of incarnation in human flesh and blood. To those of us whose faith is in a Christlike God and in a Godlike Christ, nature speaks in most resonant tones. We become overwhelmed with glory and grandeur, and we are enraptured ^{Communion with} by the Christlike Creator of all this and infinitely more awaiting [^]our spiritual growth.

Many of our lives have been enriched by John Muir, that great lover of mountains and streams, lakes and trees. Draw upon your own memory and live over again ^{radiant} ~~amenable~~ experiences as you are prompted by these words: ~~Muir's words~~ "All the upper branches of the rivers are fairly laden with lakes, like orchard trees with fruit. The whole number in the Sierra can hardly be less than fifteen hundred, ~~not counting the smaller pools and tarns, which are innumerable.~~ [↑]

"The color-beauty during the Indian summer is much richer than one could hope to find in so young and so glacial a wilderness. Almost every leaf is tinted then, and the golden rods are in bloom; but most of the color is given by the ripe grasses, willows, and aspens. At the foot of the lake ^{you} stand in a trembling aspen grove, every leaf pointed like a butterfly, and away to the right and left round the shores sweeps a curving ribbons of meadow, red and brown dotted with pale yellow, shading off here and there into hazy purple. There is a gorgeous mass of orange-yellow belonging to the main belt of the basin, ~~which~~ a glorious mass about thirty feet high, the whole being relieved against the unyielding green of the coniferous, while thick sun-gold is poured over all."

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

It was ~~the~~ Nicholas Berdyaev who wrote: "The self-assertion of a group is the form of self-assertion from which there is least hope of escape." Long before Jesus had pointed out the peril of placing love of family above devotion to God and loyalty to

~~the divine way of life. So emphatic were his words that~~

~~years later~~ they were recorded in this form: "If anyone

comes to me without 'hating' his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be a disciple of mine. The man who will not take up his

cross and follow in my footsteps cannot be my disciple." The

meaning of this hyperbole is ~~actually~~ transparent: nothing,

absolutely nothing must be placed above commitment to the will of God, - *not self, not family, not nation.*

Every Christian husband is under obligation to make a

fresh examination, under the eyes of God, of his relations with

his wife and children. If he discovers that his concern for

their wellbeing is causing him to conform to social customs

and economic practices which he knows to be contrary to the

will of God, he must, in a mood of humble contrition, seek

God's forgiveness, and fervently implore guidance as to actions

and relations which will be pleasing to ~~the Father~~ *his Father.*

Many are the temptations of a Christian patriot to put

concern for his nation above commitment to God. The demand

of nationalism is that, in times of great peril, the citizen

must do "whatever is necessary." When on a military mission, the

patriot is called upon to deceive, to lie, to steal, to kill,

even to engage in mass slaughter. When done in the cause of

patriotism, do these acts become right in the sight of God?

April 24, 1954.

Dear Friends:

This letter is being sent to the following persons:

Gene Bartlett, First Baptist Church, Los Angeles
Helen Beardsley, Congregationalist
Russell Clay, First Methodist Church, Whittier
Olivia Davis, Society of Friends
Wesley Ford, Central Christian Church, Pasadena
Allan Hunter, Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church
Ray Ragsdale, Westwood Methodist Church, Los Angeles
Fred Trotter, First Methodist Church, Alhambra

My suggestion is the ~~the~~ nine of us, plus a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian to be selected, collaborate on a 96-page pamphlet and publish it collectively, under some such title as: THE WILL OF GOD - How Do We Find It and Get Power To Do It? If this idea commends itself to you, the group should get together for an all-day examination of the possibilities and for the division of responsibility for rough drafts of various sections, to be followed by individual consideration of these draft proposals, and a further all-day conversation, after which an editing committee of three should prepare the manuscript for publication.

If we could do this work with sufficient thoroughness, there would be a great advantage in having the pamphlet off the press by early September. This would mean sending the manuscript to the printer at the end of July.

If we decide to proceed, in the meantime each of us could give serious thought to the type of pamphlet ^{letter} would be most helpful, and be prepared for the discussion at the first meeting.

Cordially,

Please tear off and mail - after checking each line

Yes

No

Friday, May 28

Saturday, May 29

Friday, June 4

Saturday, June 5

Suggested Presbyterian

Suggested Episcopalian

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

duplicate

At the end of the eighteenth century when Europe ^{trembled} ~~shivered~~ with terror over the excesses of the French revolution, Edmund Burke the British statesman wrote: "The moral state of mankind fills me with dismay and horrors. The abyss of Hell itself seems to yawn before me. I must act, think and feel according to the exigencies of this tremendous reason. It is not permitted that we should trifle with our existence."

His reasoning is sound, ^{critical} the more ~~serious~~ the situation, the more serious must be our lives. This is no time for trifling. We also are living in a Time of Troubles. Men who have reached three score years have fought two world wars and participated in violent revolutions in many lands. ~~the period of~~ ~~human history has witnessed tyranny and cruelty beyond the redoubt~~ ~~of the totalitarianism of our time.~~ Across the face of the earth, suspicion and fear and enmity prevail, ^{and} the nations are armed with weapons of annihilation.

The perspective of history is sorely needed in our time. We are no more frightened by communism than ~~the~~ Edmund Burke and his class were terrified by the revolution across the channel. Tales of ^{horror} ~~terror~~ in France were not ~~mere~~ inventions of British Tories. They were actual and revolting. But the law of the harvest operates inexorably: not only do evil seed bring forth an evil harvest, good seed ^{produce} ~~yield~~ a good harvest. The seed of liberty, equality and fraternity were good seed and plentiful has been their yield. Much indeed do all of us owe to the French Revolution.

Evil seed are now being sown in profusion, and so are good seed. It is God's law of the harvest that wheat and tares shall grow together. In such a day as this, no follower of Christ has a right to live frivolously, or to waste his time ^{with trifles.} ~~in trifling living.~~ Truly the harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few.

was in large part responsible; separation from the church, and abandonment of the life of prayer and religious service caused by the habit of drinking.

Is there any doubt what the balance sheet of the liquor business reveals to God? Can it be said that the ^{morally} ~~sale~~ ^{use} of intoxicating liquor ~~is~~ forms a wholesome part of the Kingdom of God on earth? Does the liquor industry deserve the blessing of the Almighty? Does the evidence ^{make it plain} ~~indicate~~ that the consumption of intoxicating beverages produces vast human wreckage and untold misery?

Upon whom does responsibility rest for ^{preventing} ~~reducing~~ these devastating consequences, and removing this curse from the land? Surely the thoughtful Christian will not asked to be excused. He is a new creature, possessed by the living God, an ambassador of the Eternal. And he must give answer to God: as a moderate drinker, am I more effective in my efforts to promote temperance than I would be as a total abstainer? And he will desire to reflect upon this advice of St. Paul: "Therefore if food (offered before idols) is an hindrance to my brother's welfare, sooner than injure him I will never eat flesh as long as I live, never! ... Do not let that food ~~(or drink)~~ of yours ruin the man for whom Christ died," ^{or that drink of yours.}

(*) the burden upon the taxpayer imposed by the increase cost of law enforcement, prisons, juvenile homes, and other public expense ^{caused} ~~produced~~ by drinking;

(A) ^{and vast quantities of commodities} billions of dollars diverted from other trades into the liquor business; [↑] amounts spent by ^{moderate} ~~moderate~~ Christian drinkers which could be shared with the needy around the earth;

deliberate stimulus of the appetite for drink through skillful advertising and by the atmosphere of the tavern;

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Serenity and compassion were blended to perfection in the life of John Woolman the Quaker. More than any other individual he was responsible for the repudiation of slave among Quakers owning seventy-five years before the Civil War. To persuasion he added the practice of refusing to ^{wear} ~~use~~ clothing which had been colored with dyes made by slave labor.

In an effort to arouse his fellow Quakers in England to the evils of slavery, John Woolman ^{in 1772} sailed for London ^{and} ~~for the~~ ^{steerage} of a ship of 130 tons. Thirty-nine days later, he went directly from the ship to the Yearly Meeting of Friends, made up of some of the richest and most influential men of London. He walked confidently to the Clerk's table and laid ~~the~~ ^{his} credentials down ~~his~~ ^{his} certificate which had been provided by his own meeting. The dignified members were shocked and stunned by what they saw. Since dye came from slave labor, Woolman ~~decided to~~ ^{decided to} wore a ~~cap, for he was his long-accustomed garb~~ white hat, a ^{coarse} raw lined shirt without anything about the neck, coat, waistcoat and breeches of white coarse cloth with wool buttons, his coat without cuffs, white yarn stockings, and shoes of uncured leather with bands instead of buckles - so that he was all white! And less than hour ~~after~~ before he had emerged from steerage after a long ocean voyage! He took his seat in a vacant place. After an embarrassing pause, the presiding officer rose and expressed the feeling of the meeting, that ^{the} stranger might consider that his dedication of himself to his proposed visitations in England was accepted, and that he might feel free to return ~~at~~ ^{After this humiliating discourtesy,} at once to his ~~own~~ home. Woolman sat with his face covered, and then arose and said that he did not feel himself excused from his mission and would be grateful if employment could be provided so that he could earn his daily bread. Then a long, long period of living silence. ^{Woolman} ~~Then the stranger~~ again arose, with serene

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

duplicate

Mysterious beyond all comprehension is the impact of human song upon the spirit of man. Enter into this experience, as narrated by Leslie D. Weatherhead: *No 77*

The scene is the Queen's Hall, London. A cultured audience has gathered to listen to a concert. One of the numbers is a song by a young girl whose name is unknown. ~~With perfect voice and that flawless grace which is the height of art, a song which she has practiced long.~~ After deafening applause, she sings the same song again. The audience demands more. She goes on to the platform, ~~and sings the same song with perfect voice and that flawless grace which is the height of art.~~ *and* In perfect stillness ~~she~~ begins: "There is a green ~~hill~~ hill far away, without a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all." Sings it to Gounod's glorious ~~and~~ setting. The effect is electrical. It is a long time since many of those who listen have heard any religious ~~and~~ message, and a very long time indeed since they have heard the word of the Cross. *9* The beautiful voice goes on: "We ~~may~~ not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear, but we believe it was for ^{us} He hung and suffered there." The silence becomes almost tangible. The tension is ~~almost~~ almost more than people can bear, and still the voice goes on: "There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin; He only could unlock the gate of Heaven, and let us in." There are not many dry eyes. Many grip the seats in front of them, their knuckles white with intensity, their faces strained by the depth of their emotion. The young voice travels on: "O dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too, and trust his redeeming blood, and try his works to do." The soloist forgets to bow. There is no applause - only a great silence.

No. 226

LIVING WITH PEACE of Mind
by Kirby Page

in immortality

Our ~~faith~~ ^{faith} is undergirded by the character of God. He cannot be less loving than the pursuing affection of Jesus. His concern cannot be milder than the self-emptying passion of our Lord. His yearning for man's redemption cannot be less embracing than the inclusiveness of ~~Jesus~~ ^{Christ's} forgiving prayer on the cross. And a Creator with sufficient power to sustain the spheres and to fashion ~~atomic~~ ^{atomic} universes, and who insures the conservation of matter and energy, cannot be stricken with impotence at the grave of a beloved child ~~born~~ ^{born} in his own image. It is not his loving will that a single one of ~~these~~ ^{his} little ones should perish.

The entire superstructure of true Christianity rests upon the granite foundation of the sheer goodness and utter integrity ~~of God~~ ^{the Eternal}, as revealed in our Lord Jesus, and no idea is more strongly supported by ~~the~~ ^{God's} character ~~than~~ than faith in endless fellowship in the ages to come.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God, absolutely nothing - ~~not even death~~ not even death. "No, in all these things we win an overwhelming victory through Him Who has proved His love for us." "Thanks be to God Who leads us, wherever we are, on His own triumphant way and makes our knowledge of Him to spread throughout the world like a lovely perfume!"

O thou holy God who canst never be false to any man, deepen the joy of ~~our~~ comradeship with our Living Lord. Reveal thou to us the ~~bliss~~ ^{bliss} of eternity by enabling us to walk humbly with thee in warm fellowship with our brethren. Amen.

No. 229

(Reprinted from The Christian Century, as
are several others in this series)

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Marvelous beyond comprehension is the impact of one person upon other individuals, upon society and upon history. Consider the case of Susanna Wesley. Every Englishman is indebted to her because her son John swerved Britain into new channels, and her son Charles taught the Christian church to sing and endowed it with hymns which remain our priceless treasure. Every Methodist around the globe is indebted to Susanna, and every ~~other~~ ^{ever} person who came under the transforming influence of some Methodist. And there are some ten million Methodists!

Susanna was the twenty-fifth child of Dr. Samuel Annesley, himself a great man. He was a cousin of the Earl of Anglesey and moved in the highest circles. Susanna was pretty and retained her beauty even after she had borne nineteen children. At twenty she married the Reverend Samuel Wesley. The rectory at Epworth was a three-story wreck of a house. Mr. Wesley ~~was~~ got so deeply into debt that he was ~~arrested~~ imprisoned for three months when John was a baby. When ~~the~~ ^{it was} the rectory burned, ~~and~~ for a moment ~~everybody~~ ^{it was} thought that John has perished.

Susanna Wesley took all this in her stride and to an amazing degree was unruffled and in command of the situation. ~~She taught her children and after her death the other women carried on the responsibility~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ In addition to being mother of a large family - imagine the number of times she changed diapers for nineteen babies - she taught the family school, and carried heavy ~~the~~ responsibility in the church parish. For twenty years she conducted ~~the family school~~ ^{regularly} school six hours daily. And she lived to be seventy-four! Only God knows how much of what the Wesleys contributed to mankind was poured into them by their mother Susanna.

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Juvenile crime is increasing and constitutes one of our most ominous problems. Sometimes revolting ^{offenses} ~~crimes~~ are committed by boys and girls from respectable homes, often to the complete surprise of parents who had lost intimate contact with their children. When questioned these young criminals ^{frequently} ~~often~~ reveal a feeling of loneliness and seem to have no sense of responsibility, except to their own gang. To this group they give their loyalty and for it they will lie or steal or kill. That is the way it is with human beings, all of us seek escape from loneliness and ^{us} all of ^{us} have a craving for something to which we can give ourselves.

Deep are the resources of religion upon which we can draw as we confront the dual problem of juvenile delinquency and parental delinquency. Reflect upon ^{a momentous truth} ~~the situation~~ which we Christians accept. We need God and God needs us. The good society cannot be built by ^{the Eternal} ~~God~~ alone or by unaided human effort. ^{our Father's} ~~The divine~~ purpose is the establishment of his home of love, ^{since} and only free individuals can love. ^{for} God never treats us as puppets or mechanical instruments. ~~As Father, God needs human affection and response to his appeals, and he needs help in completing his purpose.~~ God is love and love is always a two-way relationship. Thus our Father ⁱⁿ ~~needs~~ human affection ^{in healing the sick,} and requires human help - feeding hungry children, ⁱⁿ teaching the ignorant, in providing for daily human needs, in maintaining proper human relationships, in building the ^{good society} ~~beloved community~~. ~~Therefore, it is our duty to~~ Thus we need God and God longs for our companionship and requires our help in completing his work. So we are called upon to seek first the Kingdom of God and his ^{loneliness and} righteousness. Here is the cure for ^{irresponsibility} ~~irresponsibility~~: Work with God and people in building the beloved community.

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

"It is fire that I have come to bring upon the earth - how I wish it were already ablaze!" ~~Reconcile~~ Reconcile this ~~with~~ exclamation of Jesus with his invitation: "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The answer is to be found in an understanding of the nature of the peace of mind promised by our Lord. He did not offer a dose of aspirin with which to quiet a sick headache, nor did he suggest a sleeping potion in order to ~~get~~ get your mind off your troubles. His proposal was not that a man keep saying to himself, "Every day in every way, I am getting better and better," and he saw no panacea in positive affirmation as a cure for the cancerous growth of sin.

Peace of mind comes when you are aflame, on fire with the love of God, burning with compassion and lovingkindness. Jesus came that we might have life, and the meaning of life is found in relationship; in reverent adoration and complete obedience to God, in reconciliation and fellowship with people. The peace of God which passes all understanding is a fusion of commitment and zeal, endeavor and ^{affection and forgiveness,} expectation, companionship and trust; it is the ripe fruitage of habitually throwing life away in a ministry of mercy, with eager desire to do God's will. Fire brings rest unto your soul.

"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within... Let us have a real warm ~~affection~~ affection for one another as between brothers... Let us keep the fires of the spirit burning, as we do our work for God."

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Once in a discussion group a minister asked, "What do you do when in the act of praying you suddenly realize that you are afraid your prayer ^{will} ~~may~~ be answered?" Dread of God, merging into fear and terror is as old as the human race. The ancient Hebrews stood in such awe of the Lord that they dared not utter the name of God. Once they entreated Moses: "You speak to us, and we will hear; but let not God speak to us, lest we die... And the people stood afar off, while Moses drew near to the thick cloud where God was."

Two reasons are responsible for much fear of God: distorted ideas as to his character, and a guilty conscience. Sometimes God has been looked upon as vengeful and ruthless against his enemies, and sometimes he has been regarded as so utterly holy that he could not tolerate sin and was obliged to destroy the unrepentant. For centuries Christian hymnology has been saturated with the idea that in God's sight ~~a~~ man is a worm in the dust. Listen to this sentiment from the lips of Jonathan Edwards the evangelist: "The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked... you are ten thousand times so abominable in his eyes, as the most hateful and venomous serpent is in ours."

Not so, said Jesus. God loves us when we are good and he seeks us when we are lost, he has affection for the elder son at home and for the prodigal with the swine in a far off land. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even our sins, not even death. Our hope is in the grace of God.

No. 297

DEEPENING TRUST IN GOD

~~WITNESS WITH THE EYE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

Trust in the Lord with all
Thine heart, have faith in
God, is the constant plea
Of the Bible. If we weak
And sinful mortals know how
To give good gifts to our
Children, how much more
Eagerly is God doing for us
Everything that we will
Permit him to do by opening
The door when he knocks.
God is as good as Jesus,
Ever groaning over us as
Our Lord wept over the
People of Jerusalem, always
Suffering when we are in
Trouble. God loves us so
Much that he gave his Son
For our deliverance, and
Sends the Holy Spirit to be
Our constant guide, and
Offers us the continuing
Presence of the risen Lord.
Help is available from
God the Father, God in the
Son, and God through the
Holy Spirit. With Saint
Paul, we can do all things
Needful with God's aid.

If we are to claim our rich
Heritage, we must pay
Attention to God, turn to
Him many times a day, and
Set aside a daily period of
Time exposure of our soul
To his loving solicitude.
Blessed is the man who
Regularly worships with the
Congregation in the holy
Sanctuary, is warmed by
Fellowship and inspired by
The reading from Holy Writ
And the promptings of the
Sermon. Because the Lord
Is to be found where two or
Three gather ^{together} ~~gather~~ in his
Name, it is imperative that
An individual find a sharing
Group where he may enter
Into fellowship of thought
And prayer and preparation
For action. It takes time
To be holy. We must speak
Often with our Lord. Trust
In God is the ripe fruitage
Of sustained prayer and
Continuing effort to do
What he wants us to do.

No. 307

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Less than ten percent of our latent possibilities are released into actual life. We pass through this world with our faculties poorly trained and ineffectually utilized. When our worst is contrasted with our best, and when comparison is made between the most primitive man and the individual with highest genius, we catch a glimpse of the illimitable range of life.

Clearer than anyone else Jesus realized the unlimited possibilities of life created in God's image and blessed with God's guidance and power. Almost incredible are his own words: "Truly, truly I tell you, he who believes in me will do the very deeds I do, and still greater deeds than these." And in the First Epistle of John we read: "Here and now we are God's children. We don't know what we shall become in the future. We only know that, if reality were to break through, we should reflect His likeness, for we should see Him as He really is !"

If the world had been studied before there was life on it, the emergence of life could not have been predicted.

The study of vegetation would never have made possible the prediction of animal life.

An examination of the behavior of primitive creatures would never have led to the prediction of human life.

And a study of the selfishness of man would never have led to the prediction of redeeming love on the cross.

The constant factor is the wisdom and power and love of God; the variant is the degree of human sensitivity, responsiveness and commitment.

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LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Man is a mysterious creature, with innate urges which defy logic. One of his most powerful drives is a sense of duty, an impulse to do what "ought" to be done.

Dr. Hideyo Noguchi became the embodiment of this feeling of solemn obligation. In childhood the fingers of his left hand were terribly burned. In spite of this handicap, and because his father was a drunkard, he was compelled to work long hours. A Japanese doctor noticed Hideyo's crippled hand, began to treat it, and created in the boy a desire to be a doctor. In Tokyo with painful application he earned a meager living and passed his medical examination. After three years at the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, he studied in Europe. Much of his renowned research work was done at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City. In his efforts to eradicate yellow fever he journeyed to Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. When Dr. Stokes died of yellow fever in Africa, Noguchi felt impelled to take his colleague's place and complete his researches there. In 1928 at the age of fifty-one, with a bad heart and afflicted with diabetes, in spite of the warnings of his colleagues, he insisted on sailing for Africa. Within a few weeks he contracted the scourge and died.

Full of mystery is human determination to take the path of duty at the risk of one's own life. The religious answer is simple - the sense of "oughtness" is implanted deep within man by the living God. Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for others, said our Lord.

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LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The sense of touch in the human hand is a miraculous gift from God. Its sensitivity may be heightened to the degree that it becomes the mind's chief source of information of the outer world. Consider the experience of Helen Keller, who has been blind and deaf since she was nineteen months of age. With infinite patience, her teacher Anne Sullivan taught her the meaning of words as they were spelled into her hand, taught her to understand words by placing her fingers gently on lips, and to read raised letters. In these three ways Miss Keller acquired the learning which enabled her to be graduated from college, to read also French and German, to roam through the literature of the ages, and to become a highly cultured person. Such an experience prompts us to exclaim, with Helen ^aFrzee-Bower:

"God pity eyes that have not	To ears that hear and
seen the dawn,	yet have never heard.
Twilight, or shadow, or a	God pity hearts that have
wind-blown tree,	not known the gift
But pity more the eyes	Of love requited, comfort
that look upon	and caress,
All loveliness, and yet	But, O God, pity more the
can never see;	hearts that drift
God pity ears that have	From love's high moment
not caught the notes	to forgetfulness.
Of wind or wave, of	This is the tragedy of
violin or bird,	common sense:
But pity more that, daily,	To dim all wonder by
music floats	indifference."

No. 344

duplicate

SELF-CENTERED BLINDNESS

~~THE PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

The records make it clear that Jesus' family came to regard him as deranged, out of his mind, "he must be mad!" The scribes and Pharisees said that he was possessed by Beelzebub the prince of devils.

Jesus, the Son of God, "reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character," - looked upon as a madman under control of the very devil! Human vision can never become more utterly blind than that. And this was the judgment of his own relatives and of the most devout religious leaders of the day. Soon the mob was yelling, "Release unto us Barabbas" - a patriot who in armed revolt had killed a Roman - and "Crucify Jesus" - who had called upon his countrymen to love the Roman invader. Marcus Aurelius was one of the most enlightened and humanitarian of the Roman emperors, yet he sought to exterminate Christianity as an enemy of the empire.

In our time we glory in the faith and fortitude of ~~Jesus~~ Jesus and his early disciples. We sing about the faith of our fathers, ^{but some} ~~and only the late~~ editions omit the stanza, "Our fathers, chained in prisons dark, Were still in heart and conscience free: How sweet would be their children's fate, if they like them, could die for Thee!"

Yet we were first to drop an atomic bomb on a crowded city, we are spending billions upon atomic and hydrogen weapons of massive retaliation, we resort to the ancient law of an eye for an eye in dealing with criminals, our society is saturated with selfishness and greed ^{and lust,} and to a substantial degree our Christian churches are segregated institutions. Yea verily - "if your very light is darkness, how deep the darkness will be!"

No. 343

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

"White ants pick a carcass cleaner than a lion." And constant anxiety of soul devours human joy and creative power. A feeling of insecurity is disastrous for child and man alike, and the sense of being useless and unwanted is paralyzing to human effort. "Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life."

There is a cure for anxiety and a means of its prevention. Be laid hold upon by the two-fold realization that God needs your companionship and God needs your help. The Eternal is our heavenly Father, and his holy purpose is the creation of a community of fellowship. Therefore he craves the return of his own love for his children, and longs for their comradeship as co-workers in building the good society. Say to yourself - "I am needed, personally, individually, I am needed by the mighty God and loving Father of all mankind; he cannot be fully himself without my affection, and never can he complete his work without my help." God is a lonely Father because love is always lonely when unrequited. God is unable to accomplish his full purpose alone and unaided because a father by himself cannot create a joyous home. Say it again - "I am needed, I really am!"

In the school of prayer and in the school of life, grade by grade, we can advance in comradeship with God. We can practice his presence by watching him at work in nature, in creatures, in human beings, in the life of our Lord, in all things beautiful and true and good. As a mighty oak grows from an acorn, so trust in God must be nurtured day by day and year after year. Pray short prayers frequently, and long prayers regularly. Walk in the light as God gives ⁵ ~~the~~ light, and from simple trust will flow the peace of God.

No. 341

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Abstract ideas about God are inadequate as a basis of reverent worship and devoted service. Christianity is therefore a religion of Incarnation, the Word became flesh and dwelt among men, "reflecting God's bright glory and stamped with God's own character." To say that God is as good as Jesus is to utter an incomplete truth. The love and forgiveness of God are beyond even the spirit of Christ on the cross. The longing of a human father for the return of a prodigal son, the fidelity of a shepherd in search of a lost sheep - these images are pale reflections of the initiative God takes and the fervor with which he seeks our wellbeing. The Spirit of God "pleads for us with sighs that are beyond words," "groanings which cannot be uttered."

Yet there are those who say that God cannot suffer because of his utter holiness and infinite perfection. Some say that God is the Wholly Other, so transcendent and far removed as to be beyond contact with human beings. Others contend that God does not "need" us any more than the tides or the cosmic forces need human response.

But the Christian faith is that God is ^{at} least personal, more than personal, super-personal. He is alive, thinks and loves and acts. Surely the meaning of the Incarnation is that God loves his children enough to give his most precious gift. The higher the love, the more ardently it longs for response and the more urgently it "needs" the affectionate comradeship of the beloved. It is the audacious affirmation of our religion that God needs our responsive affection, and requires our help in the completion of his holy purpose. Thus we are called upon to take life seriously.

No. 325

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Those of us who ^{desire to possess} ~~possessing~~ the peace of God which passes understanding will do well to reflect upon the meaning of these words from Dean Inge: "A generation which wishes for a religion without tears must find it difficult to adjust its beliefs to the teaching of the New Testament and to the facts of life."

The great characters of the Bible were men of sorrows and acquainted with grief. The pinnacle passage of the Old Testament is about the suffering servant who brings redemption to the guilty. The heart of the New Testament is the Cross of Christ, and the Holy Spirit of God groans over us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Yet the Gospel of Christ is Good News, and the note of triumph resounds from Matthew to Revelation. The joy of our Lord and the peace of God are assured to true disciples.

Suffering is inescapable for three reasons. To love is to suffer when the beloved is in anguish. The ^{stranger} ~~more~~ we grow [^] spiritually, the more we grieve over our weaknesses and sins. As we climb higher and higher above the status quo and refuse to conform to the standards and practices of this world, we encounter suspicion, fear and opposition.

The peace of God is deep water, it is the calm at the center of the cyclone, it is serenity in the midst of activity, it ^{is} joy while in pain. Many of the troubles of Christians and [^] much of their happiness come from the same source - from fidelity to our Lord and companionship with him in journeying the way of the cross. Pray not for the ease of stagnation, ^{for} but the exhilaration of loyalty to the will of God.

No. 330

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The revelation of God in the beauty of nature is not *sufficient* ~~enough~~ to unveil his character. The most satisfying disclosure of the Eternal must take the form of incarnation in human flesh and blood. To those of us whose faith is in a Christlike God and in a Godlike Christ, nature speaks in most resonant tones. We become overwhelmed with glory and grandeur, and we are enraptured by communion with the Christlike Creator of all this and infinitely more awaiting our spiritual growth.

Many of our lives have been enriched by John Muir, that great lover of mountains and streams, lakes and trees. Draw upon your own memory and live over again radiant experiences as you are prompted: "All the upper branches of the rivers are fairly laden with lakes, like orchard trees with fruit. The whole number in the Sierra can hardly be less than fifteen hundred. The color-beauty during the Indian summer is much richer than one could hope to find in so young and so glacial a wilderness. Almost every leaf is tinted then, and the golden rods are in bloom; but most of the color is given by the ripe grasses, willows, and aspens. At the foot of the lake you stand in a trembling aspen grove, every leaf pointed like a butterfly, and away to the right and left round the shores sweeps a curving ribbon of meadow, ~~light~~ red and brown dotted with pale yellow, shading off here and there into hazy purple. There is a gorgeous ~~bank~~ *bank* ~~of orange-yellow~~ of orange-yellow, a glorious mass about thirty feet high, the whole being relieved against the unyielding green of the coniferae, while thick sun-gold is poured over all."

No. 319

Publicat

A NOTE OF JOYFUL EXULTATION

~~LOVE WITH PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

In his monumental work, "The History of Primitive Christianity," Johannes Weiss writes: "The early Christians felt themselves to be witnesses and participants in the mighty world-drama, which was moving on toward its climax before ^{their} ~~the~~ very eyes. The Messiah is for them not ~~the~~ merely the King of the ^{Jews,} ~~world,~~ or of the whole world; he stands close to them personally, he is their beloved Lord and Master. From this source was derived the warmth and inwardness, the strongly personal element in the new religion.

"The boldness and the rejoicing recorded upon every page of the New Testament, are rooted in the feeling that they are servants of a mighty Lord. We shall never grasp the Christ-religion of the primitive church as something genuine and real unless we steadily take into account the continuing influence of the personality of Jesus, so strong, and so sure of himself. Throughout the opening chapters of the Book of Acts we catch a note of joyful exultation. Unless ~~we~~ one can understand this constant mood of victorious, jubilant happiness and confidence, he simply will not understand primitive Christianity. A tempestuous enthusiasm, an overwhelming intensity of ~~the~~ feeling, an immediate awareness of the presence of God, an incomparable sense of power and an irresistible control over the will and inner spirit - these are ineradicable features of historic early Christianity. Jesus' power over their souls was now at last fully realized. This is the personal and moral basis of the overpow^{er}ing enthusiasm which welled up among them and overflowed like a flood into the spiritual life of mankind."

"You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." Are we today - really?

No. 314

duplicate

THE CREATOR OF ALL MARVELS

~~LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado can teach us many things about the workings of God's processes - the power of repetition, the force of continuity, the significance of time.

The gorge is a mile deep, averages eleven to thirteen miles in width, and is 217 miles in length. Elegant language can scarcely say more than the exclamation of Theodore Roosevelt: "Golly what a gully!"

The explanation of scientists is that the Canyon was dug by the ceaseless power of running water, the blasting force of terrific wind, expanding and contracting effects of heat and frost and rain, the disintegrating results of chemical action set in operation by countless plants and shrubs and trees, and the pull of gravity. We are told that the cutting of the gorge must have taken seven to nine million years, and before that were the geological ages required in the alternating process of upheaval and submergence under the sea.

Through the deep gorge runs a mighty river some three hundred feet wide and moving with great ^{velocity,} ~~velocity~~, carrying vast amounts of silt, rocks and boulders - and yet the estimate ^{is that the Canyon is being deepened at} ~~is that the Canyon is being deepened at~~ ^{an almost imperceptible pace.} ~~the rate of only a~~ ~~fraction of an inch per year!~~ The walls of the Canyon are stained with minerals and minerals salts, and the total painting baffles description and must be experienced to be believed.

The Creator of all the marvels of the universe is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ^{who} notes the fall of every sparrow, who has numbered the hairs on the head of every person, and who yearns to lead us into abundant life. ~~and~~
^{But} human freedom must be used in ways that provide God with opportunity.

No 306

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

One of the oldest of human questions is, What shall I do with my enemy? Three answers in the Bible reflect stages of spiritual insight: take vengeance against him seventy times seven, render justice and restrict retaliation to one eye for one eye, love him with self-giving concern.

Jesus' reason for calling upon his disciples to love their enemies, "so that you may show yourselves true sons of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on bad and good alike, and makes the rain fall on the upright and the wrongdoer."

Love is the greatest thing in the world because it is the very nature of God. It is more than a sentiment or an emotion, it is a relationship. God continues to love us even while he beholds in us many attitudes and actions which he does not like. Love in ^{the New Testament} ~~the Bible~~ is not the same as physical love or family affection. It is concern for the wellbeing of an enemy, an ardent desire that his life may be filled with wisdom, righteousness and joy. It is yearning that he may become everything that God wants him to be, that he also may be a true son of our Father. It is more than aspiration, it is commitment and effort expended in his behalf. Its fullest expression is seen in the Way of the Cross, where innocence suffers at the hands of the guilty and prays for the forgiveness of the wrongdoer. Little wonder then that the New Testament insists that when a man is in Christ he is a new creature.

No. 205

HOW DOES JESUS SAVE US?

~~UNRECORDED~~

By Kirby Page

duplicate

From the neon sign on many a church blaze these words:
Jesus Saves! What does this mean? What is salvation, and
how does Jesus save us?

Salvation is right relationship. We are saved to the degree
that we love God with our entire being, love our neighbors that
way, and our enemies as well. Love is self-giving concern, and
we are saved as we worship God and throw ourselves away in
compassionate fellowship with people. We are lost to the degree
that we are self-centered. Conversion leads to salvation when
it has a beginning and a continuing. Salvation is a process, and
all of us are ^{partly} saved and partly lost. So it is when a man
loves his wife and hates his competitor, when a Caucasian upholds
white superiority and segregates Negroes, when a patriot seeks
the wellbeing of his own people by killing citizens of another
country.

^{some of}
These are the ways in which Jesus saves us:

1. By revealing the character of God as he is disclosed
nowhere else in the universe; by making plain through his own
attitudes and actions and relationships the meaning of the pure
grace of God.
2. By showing us the way we should live, and setting for us
an example to be followed.
3. By giving us wonderful words of life in his teaching.
4. By convicting us of sin, prompting us to make confession
and to accept the forgiveness of God.
5. By drawing us to himself as he is lifted up on the cross
of self-sacrifice, and by breaking our hearts over his unmerited
suffering.
6. By journeying with us day by day as a living Presence.

No. 290

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Human ^{im}agination alone can travel ~~so~~ faster than the velocity of light. ~~But~~ Yet 800,000 light-years are required for a ray to traverse the distance from the Great Nebula of Andromeda to our eyes.

An exercise in imagination has been devised by Robert H. Baker, who suggests that just for fun we multiply the velocity of light by one million - yes, multiply by one million - and ^{at that speed} hurl ourselves toward the Great Nebula. "We pass by the moon in almost no time at all. In a fiftieth of a second we are whizzing past Pluto, that most distant of all planets. ~~During the next second we are crossing the distance of our~~
~~nearest star.~~ In another two minutes we are as far away as our nearest star, and ~~in four minutes we have reached the~~
~~Big Dipper.~~ Twenty minutes more take us to Arcturus. For ten hours we speed along through the star cloud to which our sun belongs. ~~During the next ten hours we are passing the~~
~~Andromeda Nebula.~~ After two weeks among these clouds we finally pass beyond them - beyond the Milky Way itself. For two weeks more we encounter now and then great balls of suns of surprising grandeur. And at a rate ~~of~~ one million times as fast as light travels, it will take nine months longer to reach the Andromeda, through the empty space that intervenes."

Dizzy? Truly our Creator is a great God, wise and powerful and dependable beyond all human comprehension. And the chief product of his loving skill is the spirit of man, made in the likeness of his own nature, endowed with freedom of choice, and trusted by the Almighty with the use of all his faculties. How deep the tragedy when as a prodigal man forsakes his Father's companionship! How high the glory when he becomes possessed by dominant desire to do his Father's will!

Duplicate

THE MARKS OF A SAINT

~~LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

Paul the apostle, in his letters, often used such a greeting: "To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints?" ~~was a translation of the Greek word~~ ^A passage from "The Fellowship of the Saints," a huge volume by Thomas ^{S.} Kepler, will prompt self-examination: [^]

"The saints as the 'saving remnant' of our era are not necessarily geniuses; rather they are ordinary men and women with spiritual capacities whose divine spark has been fanned into its highest purpose. The life of each Christian saint is conditioned in the following ten ways: 1. His life is saturated with an intense ~~Love~~ of the Christian religion as a way of adjusting himself to himself, to his fellow men, to God. He is a 'religion-intoxicated' person! 2. He lives with a joyous, radiant, lighthearted freedom, because his life is totally dependent on God. 3. He emulates Christ in everything he does. Each day at dawn he offers a prayer: 'May the image of Christ radiate through me this day.' 4. He freely opens his life to God's redemptive, free-giving love - and as the recipient of God's agape, he desires to help the needy, the lost, the unfortunate, the unhappy. 5. Christianity for him is a practical way of living with individuals in an unchristian society. 6. He believes that the Kingdom of God can come into history. But it must continue in him as it began in Christ. 7. He has a continuous humility. 8. He looks ^K wistfully into the eyes of every person ~~as a brother in whom lie the potentialities of a Christian saint~~ as a brother in whom lie the potentialities of a Christian saint. 9. He knows how to alternate between worship and social activity. 10. He is, in the words of a child who loved cathedral windows, 'a man the light shines through.'"

CLIMBING IS HAZARDOUS

~~LEAD UP~~

~~IF WE ARE TO REACH MATURITY~~

~~IMMEDIATE REACH OF MIND~~

by Kirby Page

Helping us to conquer difficulties and to climb over obstacles is God's way of achieving maturity of character. Ease of living and sloth of endeavor result in flabbiness. Constant practice is the price exacted for utmost skill, even for a genius in music or art or science. Steady growth toward the likeness of Christ requires seriousness of effort.

And so, in the fresh translation of Phillips, we read the challenge of our Lord: "Go in by the narrow gate. For the wide gate has a broad road which leads to disaster and there are many people going that way. The narrow gate and the hard road lead out into life and only a few find it." In the letter of James we read: "When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives, my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become men of mature character with the right sort of independence."

In the Letter to Rome^c, we heard Saint Paul pleading: "With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg of you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the Plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves toward the goal of true maturity."

Keep on seeking, continue knocking at the door, and with God's aid, you will find your way into life indeed.

No. ~~277~~ 311

duplicate

26 at First
400
Don't
Succeed

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

A dozen peak ideas are the
The Yang
Essence of all high religion
And the topmost pinnacle is
The wisdom and power and
Love of God, creator and
Sustainer of the universe,
And Father of all men.
Persons are spiritual
Creatures housed in animal
Bodies, and are of precious
Worth in God's sight. All
Men's dealings are with his
Kinsmen brethren
Brethren, with his brethren
In his Father's home.
Love
Concern is the most dynamic
conduct,
Motivation of human conduct,
Concern
Solidarity and compassion
For the welfare of another.
The craving for justice is
Innate in human aspiration,
The desire to receive and to
Give
Require fair play treatment. A
Remote distance beyond
Justice is fellowship,
Rooted in appreciativeness
warm
And forgiveness and affection
Affection. Never does an
Individual face a sinner, he
Confronts only fellow-sinners.
Only. A man cannot cast out
Evil from another person
By contributing his own evil
But by adding the leaven of
Goodness. The cure of evil
Is found only in transformation
And reconciliation. Thus it is
Better to run the risk of doing
Right than to suffer the
Consequences of wrongdoing.
Rather than take up sword and
Bomb, it is right to take up
Cross and follow wherever our
the face of
Lord leads, in spite of every
Risky risk and in spite of
All costs.
Every Joy flows from
Right relationship with God
And man, not from indulgence
And comfort and safety. Not
by self-seeking but by self-
Giving does a man find life
Indeed. As we love our
Father and the brethren we
enter into everlasting life,
On this earth and in the
Ages to come.

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Faith is the cornerstone of religion, but atheism also rests upon ~~Religion~~ faith. Consider this familiar passage from

Bertrand Russell and realize how it breathes with faith in automatic creation rather than in God the Creator. *RR 54*

Consider the faith required to believe that the fidelity of Socrates to truth, even though it cost him death by drinking the cup of hemlock, as being no more than "accidental collocations of atoms." Try to account for the blitheness and radiance of Saint Frances as resting upon "the firm foundation of unyielding despair." Read again the twenty-third Psalm, the Sermon on the Mount, the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians and try to believe that on atheism alone "can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built." Try and do it, and you will find the effort more stupendous than to believe simply in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

"With a great price, obtained I this freedom,"
exclaimed a Roman judge to Saint Paul. And every privilege
we enjoy has cost somebody something. We live in a moral
universe where there is an inexorable law of the harvest.
Reaping always comes from sowing, but no solitary figure
ever brought in the harvest. We reap together, as we sow
together. Life is corporate. We are bound together, cannot
live in seclusion and do not ^{die} ~~die~~ in isolation. Our virtues
and our sins alike flow into the lives of others.

There is a yet more significant aspect to the corporate
nature of life. What God does influences us, and what we
do brings joy or grief to the heart of the Eternal. The
record of human doings is full of parental exultation over
the glorious achievements of sons and daughters, and likewise
full of paternal anguish and maternal agony over the pain
and shame of their children. And so it is with God. There
is joy in heaven and there is much suffering in the soul
of our Father.

Because God is love, pure untarnished love, he is bound
tightly to every sufferer. He is the vine and we are the
branches. The stuff of life flows from him into us, and back
into his heart. When ~~we~~ we sin, he grieves; when we are
stricken, his heart throbs in affection. God suffered with
Jesus on the cross, and he enters into every human experience
of bliss and degradation. Therefore, rise, shine, and give
God glory!

No. 316

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Beauty is food for the soul	Or musical midsummer when
Of man and as essential to	they bud and tassel,
Spiritual growth as bread	Or crown themselves with
And potatoes and carrots are	stormy splendors in the
To physical health. Thus the	fall.
Wise man takes pains to feed	But lovelier than day or
His emotions, to give them a	night or trees in
Balanced diet of loveliness.	blossom,
He is alert to fleeting	Is there no secret infinite
Glimpses of splend or ^{or} , and	loveliness behind?
Goes to special places for	Beautiful is water, running
A meal of glory just as he	on rocks in mountains,
Stops at a restar ^u ant at	Or bosoming sunset where
Noontime. And for dessert	the y valley rivers ponder;
He takes a generous portion	Beautiful is ocean with its
Of silence and thanksgiving	myriad colors,
To the Creator of all	In southern blues and
Beauty. Let these words	purples, its arctic gray
Of William Alexander Percy	and silver,
Strengthen determination	Blown into green frost-
To take proper spiritual	fretted or wine-dark in
Nourishment:	the evening.
"Lovely is daytime when the	But still more beautiful than
joyful sun goes singing,	waters calm or cloven,
Lovely is night with stars	Than ocean thunder-maned or
and round of sickled moon,	floored for delicate
Lovely are trees, forever	springtime,
lovely, whether in winter	Is there no beauty save to
	our eyes?"

No. 315

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

An enriching spiritual experience will be entered into as we pray, with Marcus Dods, an eminent British theologian and ^epracher:

"O Lord, Thou hast said that, if we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Help us, therefore now to confess sincerely and utterly as those who expect pardon, and not punishment.

"We acknowledge that we have lived as if we had no God, believing little, expecting little, loving little, obeying little. Especially we have not believed that our nature would be changed; have believed often that we have been born, so we must remain; have become resigned to our sins, instead of hopefully striving against them. ~~and have each concluded that~~
~~that we had no power to overcome our sins~~
~~and had no power to overcome our sins~~ Thy will ^{has} been known to us, and we have seen every reason for doing it, and have been offered sufficient help for its performance, and yet we have sinned. Thou hast never ceased to deal tenderly with us, hast shown us evidently the great evil and folly of forsaking Thee, and yet we have sinned. Our own desires have led us. The most passing impulse, the merest habit has been powerful enough to overcome our inclination to serve Thee. We have suffered other persons and things to usurp the place due to thee alone; and have let them regulate our conduct, sometimes against Thy will, often at least in competition with Thy will.

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy name. Deliver us, and purge away our sins for Thy name's sake. Establish between our souls and Christ a fuller confidence. May we know more of His power to save from sin."

duplicate

THE SPIRIT OF MAN IS PLAYED UPON

~~LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND~~

By Kirby Page

The spirit of man is played
Upon by lovely song from
Human voice, from mountain
Stream, from gentle breeze
In tall trees, and from
Feathered creatures. Thus
We are strangely moved as
We share this experience:
"I stood tonight at
twilight's holy hour,
And heard the thrushes
sing,
As from some far, secluded
convent tower
The Angelus might ring,
Dropping in silver tones
like a summer rain,
Those thirsty souls to
bless
Whose lives are spent in
endless toil and pain,
Or illness and distress -
So falls the songs! Each
liquid cadence rare
In time and rhythm true!
Cool, tranquil, calm,
unhurried as a prayer,
And crystal clear as dew!
Deep, deep! Sounding the
very depths of life

In reverential mood;
Then higher rising, throbs
with meaning rife,
Far through the dark'ning
wood.
Higher, and yet again, the
strain is heard,
Until the heart is thrilled
With mysteries unsolved,
and hopes deferred,
And longings unfulfilled!
Now that deep opening strain
is heard once more,
Bringing its blessed peace!
The sunset light is fading,
day is o'er,
And soon the song will
cease!
Yet in my heart, those tones
so wondrous sweet, -
That song of beauty
rare, -
The night shall echo; and
my dream repeat
That softly uttered prayer!"
(Winifred Holoway Palmer).

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The entrancing spell of
Music is nothing less
Than holy worship.
"O, give me music in the
twilight hour!
Then, skilled Musician!
thou of the magic power,
Summon the souls of the
masters long since gone
Who through thine art live
on!
As the day dies I would
once more respire
The passion of that spirit
whose keen fire
Flashes and flames in
yearning and unrest
And never-^{ing}end^{ing} quest...
So would I ask, Musician!
of thy grace
That thou would bless and
sanctify the place
With august harmonies,
well-loved of old,
But from thy manifold
Miraculous memory fail not
of thine own
Imaginings enraptured of
pure tone,

That I may nearer draw to
music's shrine,
And mystery divine."
(Richard Watson Gilder).
Let us pray:
"Hang me among your winds,
O God,
Above the tremulous stars,
Like a harp of quivering
silver strings,
Showering, as it swings,
Its tuneful bars
Of eerie music on the
earth.
Touch me, O God, with
but a gesture -
And let each finger sweep
Over my strings until
they leap
With life, and rain
Their silver ^{chimes} ~~chimes~~ upon
the plain,
In harmonies of far
celestial ^{spaces,} ~~places,~~
Of high and holy places."
(Lew Saffett).

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The Bible is the Word of
God, and God is the same
Yesterday, today and
Forever. But man's ability
To receive God's revelation
Varies with his spiritual
Age - at ten he understands
More than at two. The full
Grown Son enables us to
Measure the maturity of
Every chapter. We hear
Jesus saying, "It used to
Be said, but I say unto
You." The mind of Christ,
And his spirit, must be
Our constant guide.
"It took me ten days
To read the Bible through,
Then I saw what I saw,
And I knew what I knew...
For a great wind blows
Through Ezekiel and John,
They are all one flesh
That the Spirit blows upon.
And suddenly the words
Seemed to quicken and
to shine;
They glowed like the bread,
They purpled like the wine...

The Book felt like flesh,
It would breathe - it would
sing -
It would throb beneath my
hand
Like a breast, like a wing.
It would cry, it would
groan,
It would shout and complain -
It would seem to climb a
hill
With its solemn stress of
pain.
It would grapple with
fierce powers,
With a deep interior strife.
It would seem to heave and
lift
With a terrible, glad life.
And my flesh was in the
Book,
And its blood was in me;
I could feel it throb
within,
As plain as it could be...
It took me ten days
To read the Bible through -
Then I saw what I saw,
And I knew what I knew."

(Anna Hempstead Branch).

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The grace of God is the costly offering of his love and forgiveness and power to undeserving sinners, even while they live in rebellion against him. The grace of God cannot be earned, it is an unmerited gift from holy love. It is bestowed for the sole reason that it is the nature of God to grant it.

The grace of God finds its supreme incarnation in the cross of Christ. Jesus was no actor faultlessly reading the lines of a script prepared for him. He walked the way of the cross because, under all the circumstances, love and fidelity moved him in that direction. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly," for the ungodly, for the undeserving. Love is poured freely because it is love.

No more terrible distortion is conceivable than the theory of the atonement which presents the death of Jesus on the cross as necessary to appease the wrath of an angry God and make it morally permissible for him to forgive sinners. The grace of God was revealed on the cross. Jesus' prayer for the forgiveness of the men who were killing him was itself prompted by the grace of God. Saturate your mind indelibly with the truth that God is as good as Jesus.

O for a thousand tongues	Your loosened tongue
to sing	employ;
My great Redeemer's praise,	Ye blind, behold your
The glories of my God and	Saviour come;
King,	And leap, ye lame,
The triumphs of His grace!	for joy."
Hear Him, ye deaf, his	(Charles Wesley).
praise, ye dumb,	

No. 291

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Concerning the nature of true prayer, Francois Fenelon long ago gave this advice: "Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. ~~Now~~ Tell Him your troubles, that he may comfort you; tell Him your joys, that he may sober them; all Him your longings, that he may purify them; tell Him your dislikes, that he may help you to conquer them; tell Him of your temptations, that he may shield you from them; show Him the wounds on your heart, that he may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved tastes for evil, your instability. Tell Him how self-love makes you unjust to others, how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself as to others. If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be **no** lack of what to say. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar unreserved intercourse with God.

~~And the people who do not understand~~ "In proportion as you talk to him he will talk to you; and often you should be silent and let him speak, ~~and then you will be silent and then you will be silent~~ ^{and then you will be silent} ~~and then you will be silent~~ We know little of interior silence. It lies in hushing our idle, restless, wandering imagination, in quieting the promptings of our world ^{by} minds, and in suppressing the crowd of unprofitable thoughts which excite and disturb the soul."

Never forget that prayer is desire, the soul's sincere
desire of God. ^{with fervent eagerness} ~~that earnest~~ direct desires of every kind
Godward, for correcting ^{ing} and refining, until utmost desire is
to do what God wants done.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Concerning the great preacher Thomas Chalmers it was said that he "carried his shrine with him everywhere." That is what every man does, even though it may have fallen into disrepair.

In every individual there is a sacred altar, a holy meeting place of the divine and the human spirit. In the inner sanctuary of the soul, man may respond to the insistent appeal of God and enter into an ever-deepening comradeship, listening more than petitioning. The invisible, inaudible Spirit of God has ways of communicating with the invisible, inaudible human spirit, the soul having eyes and ears of its own. Stillness and cessation from striving intensify desire to know the Will of God and to find power to do it.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Faith and fortitude will be strengthened within you by these invigorating words from Borden Parker Bowne, one of America's great teachers of religion:

"When confronted with the miseries of ~~man~~ mankind, there is only one argument that touches the bottom, and that is Paul's question: 'He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?' We look on the woes of the world. We hear the whole creation, to use Paul's language, groaning and laboring in pain. We see a few good men vainly striving to help the world into life and light; and in our sense of the awful magnitude of the problem and of our inability to do much, we cry out: 'Where's God? How can he bear this? Why doesn't he do something?'

"And there is but one answer that satisfies; and that is the Incarnation and the Cross. God could not bear it. He has done something. He has done the utmost compatible with moral vision. He has entered into the fellowship of our suffering and misery and at infinite cost has taken the world upon his heart that he might raise it to himself. This is the highest revelation. Of course the order of life is still mysterious. The mystery of pain is not yet solved. But in the presence of this revelation, we say, with the Apostle: What shall separate us from the love of God? For he that spared not his own Son for our sakes must with him give us all things / ~~so that against~~
~~all evil and distresses whatsoever we are more than conquerors~~
~~through him that hath loved us.~~ A Divine Person working for love's sake a divine word^{for} for man's redemption is the centre of the Christian faith and the source of its power."

No. 323

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Dear Lord, we thank thee for
Silence; melodious, vibrating
Stillness; for its music so
Enchanting and its message so
Enrapturing. We praise thee,
O thou who dost exult in the
Grandeur ~~as~~ dawn folds the
Curtains of night, and
Reveals rising sun and
Radiant sky, lake and peak,
Tree and shrub, bud and
Flower. We adore thee,
O tranquil Creator, for
Silence of evening star,
Silence of wings of light,
Silence of floating cloud,
Silence of soft ^hzephyr,
Silence of drifting snow,
Silence of gentle rain,
Silence of calm sea,
Silence of crimson rose,
Silence of stately redwood.
O Lord God, we thank thee
For silence when the clamor
Of appetite is hushed, and ~~we~~
We come to our right mind
And hunger for thee as a
Stricken doe thirsts with
Her fawn in a parched land.

Dear Lord, we thank thee for
Silence; warm, transporting
Stillness; for its refrain so
Insistent, and its appeal so
Intriguing. We praise thee,
O thou who rejoicest in the
Wonder of human affection,
And art filled with rapture
At human worship. We adore
Thee, O still small voice
Of calm that stirs our
Souls as aspen leaves are
Ruffled by the breeze, for
Silence of handclasp,
Silence of unspoken joy,
Silence of shared sorrow,
Silence of holy aspiration,
Silence of high resolve,
Silence of clear thinking,
Silence of ^vduty's call,
Silence of memory,
Silence of ~~an~~ticipation.
O Lord God, we thank thee ~~for~~
^{for}
Silence as we lift our ~~dear~~
^{^ dear ones}
~~ones~~ before thy throne ~~an~~
^{^ In}
[^] fervent prayer that they
And we may do thy loving
Will, and thus enter into
Fullness of eternal life.

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Arnold of Rugby, one of the greatest of all teachers,
was paid this tribute by the poet Coleridge:

In him was Jesus crucified again.

For every sin that he could not prevent

Stuck in him like a nail. His heart bled for it,

As if it had been a foul sin of his own.

A true mother feels this way about the degradation of a daughter, and a faithful friend is ^{humiliated} ~~shamed~~ by the disgrace of a companion. It was the glory of Jesus to take the virtues of the family, heighten them, and to face all life in their mood. In veritable truth he lived as a good member of God's family.

Imagination enables us to apprehend more than appears on the surface, and identification makes it possible for us to enter the experiences of another. It was said that the prophet Ezekiel so identified himself with the victims of captivity that he sat where they sat and entered into their troubles. ^{So} Jesus merged his life with those of his people that he wept over Jerusalem. [^] Two simple disciplines will help ~~us~~ in deepening the relationship of compassionate identification. First, the repeated reminder that our shame brings shame upon God and our fidelity brings him glory. In the book of Romans we are told that our Father grieves over us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And second, that is the way God feels about every other human being on this earth. The manner in which I live and the mode of life of others with whom I have contacts make a vital difference to God himself. The impact of this truth rocks us to the center of ^{our being} ~~existence~~.

11

also mention Dad
Script H.
102

Sublimity

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

There is significant truth in the lines we used to sing,
"His eye is on the sparrow, and I know that he cares for me."
The ^{glory}~~minuteness~~ of the Creator is his concern for magnitude and
for minuteness, for celestial bodies and atomic worlds, and
every dimension of every created thing.

Consider the marvelous equipment with which he has provided
migratory birds. Within twelve months the Arctic ~~Tern~~ ^{Tern} travels
from near the north pole to near the south pole, a ^{roundtrip}~~distance~~ of
22,000 miles. From fourteen to seventeen inches in length,
sometimes mistaken for gulls or swallows, these amazing birds
enjoy daylight ten months out of twelve, since there is
perpetual sun at both ends of their flight and more day than
night during the long flights. Their number is legion and
they breed from Massachusetts north ~~to the~~ throughout the entire
Arctic regions of Alaska, Europe and Asia. How they find their
way across land and water, through darkness and light, at the
rate of 150 miles per ~~hour~~ ^{during storm and calm,} twenty-four hours for the four
months required in coming and going - ~~this~~ this is known only
to their Creator!

The hummingbird is one of the most remarkable of God's
creatures. Nearly five hundred species are known, varying in
length from two and one-quarter inches to eight and one-half
inches, and colored with all the hues of the rainbow. They
can fly so rapidly that they remain ~~motionless~~ "motionless" sipping
nectar from blossoms. ^{As the light strikes them from varying}
~~Their plumage reflects light from various~~
~~angles~~ angles, they present an indescribably beautiful blending
of color. ^{their plumage}

Deep ^{is} ~~as~~ the concern of God for ~~the~~ the birds of the
air, ^{and} more compassionate is his love for you, O son of man!

*See
Fenelon*

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado can teach us many things about the workings of God's processes - the power of repetition, the force of continuity, the significance of time.

The gorge is a mile deep, ^{averages eleven to thirteen miles in width,} ~~and is 217 miles in length.~~

~~wide and 218 miles long~~ ^{wide} Elegant language can scarcely say more than the exclamation of Theodore Roosevelt: "Golly, what a

gully!" It was human pride which prompted a visitor to insist, ^{young} ~~Well, man, your explanation~~ ^{what you say}

sounds all right, but you can't make ~~me~~ ^{me} believe this Canyon was dug without human help."

The explanation of scientists is that the Canyon was dug by ~~the~~ ^{force} the ceaseless power of running water, the blasting ^{force} of terrific wind, expanding and contracting ^{results} effect of heat and frost and rain, the disintegrating ^{results} of chemical action set in operation by countless plants and shrubs and trees, and the pull of gravity. We are told that the cutting of the gorge must have taken seven to nine millions years, and before that were the ~~long~~ ^{as} geological ages required in the alternating process of upheaval and submergence under the sea.

Through the deep gorge runs a mighty river some three hundred feet wide and moving with great rapidity, ⁱⁿ carry vast amount ^{of} of silt, rocks and boulders - and yet the estimate is that the Canyon is being deepened at the rate of only a fraction of an inch per year! The walls of the Canyon are stained with ~~the~~ ^{minerals} minerals and mineral salts, ~~is the original sediment at the bottom~~ and the total painting baffles description and must be experienced in order to be believed.

The Creator of all the marvels of the universe is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who notes the fall of every sparrow, who has numbered the hairs on the head of every person, and yearns ^{like} to lead us into ~~the~~ ^{into} abundant life. But human freedom must be used in ways that provide God with opportunity.

although
He was a white man who was a Negro, or as he preferred to say, he was a Negro man who was white. And he died this week, at the early age of sixty-one.

This Caucasian, this Negro, with fair skin, blue eyes and blonde hair, ~~could~~ ^{could} pass as a white person, as indeed he was.

But at heart Walter White was a Negro, ^{and in his veins flowed "white" and "Negro" blood.} He felt himself to be ~~one~~ ^{a Negro}

he wanted to be one, and of his own free will he chose to be one.

He gloried in the spirit and the achievements of Negroes, and he ^{lived as} ~~was~~ one of them.

Caucasians

White people are inclined to be condescending when they speak of ~~the~~ ^{Walter White's decision} electing to live as a Negro, when he could have

disappeared from the black world and taken his place among white

people. Such a patronizing attitude is itself proof of the soundness

of ~~his~~ ^{his} position that in notable respects most Negroes

are superior to most Caucasians - in humility, gentleness, cheerfulness, adaptability, forbearance, magnanimity, and in religious feeling and eagerness to do God's will.

So this white man elected to live as a Negro, ~~and~~ ^{with} zest ~~he~~ ^{concern he} shared the triumphs of black men, and with ~~exaltation~~ shouldered the burdens of both races to which he belonged. Never forget the weight of ~~the~~ ^{sin} ~~decision~~ on the Caucasian's back - pride, arrogance, discrimination, segregation, callousness, injustice, exploitation, and extremes of cruelty.

Walter White knew himself to be a servant of ~~both~~ ^{the two} races, ^{merged in him,} and never felt the slightest trace of self-pity as he worked in a noble cause. He was exultant, consecrated, and effective. For quarter of a century he ~~was~~ ⁺ ~~he~~ heart of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In the field of better race relations he proved himself to be ~~the~~ ^{a generous} benefactor of Negro and Caucasian alike. He has now gone to join that immortal host of men and women of all races and centuries whose fidelity, ~~has~~ ^{has} as servants of the living God, helped man to plant his feet on higher ground.

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Man ³feel the power of God in a storm at sea, and when ~~he~~⁵ ~~we~~⁵ hear the mighty roar of the tides pounding the rocks.
But in the still small voice, ~~we~~^{he} ~~feel~~⁵ the presence of God with most radiant joy.

Our souls are so fashioned that the blending of silence and beauty lifts us to the heights of exaltation. Enter into this experience of John Muir the mountaineer: "Now came the solemn, silent evening. Long, blue spiky shadows cut across the snow-fields, while a rosy glow, at first scarce discernible, gradually deepened and suffused every mountain-top, flushing the glaciers and the harsh crags with the alpenglow. ~~was the~~
~~the best impression of all the terrestrial manifestation of God.~~
At the touch of this divine light, the mountains seemed to kindle to a rapt, religious consciousness, and stood hushed and waiting like devout worshipers. Then two crimson clouds came streaming across the summit like wings of flame, rendering the sublime scene yet more impressive.

"How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains at the break of day! ~~the sun rises with the dawn of~~
~~the sun rises with the dawn of~~ The highest peaks burned like islands in a sea of liquid shade. Then the lower peaks and spires caught the glow, and long lances of light, streaming through many a notch and pass, fell thick on the frozen meadows."

Yes, "the fairest things that are those that silent come; you may not hear the first approach of morning, and though you listen as the golden sun of hours fades into dusk, no sound is born. No voices herald moonlight on a lake; the silvery dew is still; these gifts are given as quietly as Christ, who for our sake was sent to us, the greatest gift of heaven."

we may exclaim with Elizabeth Scottard,

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

It has been said that "life is pure flame, and we live by an invisible sun within us." Imagination is its name, the illumination which comes from projection. Imagination gives us wings with which to traverse land and sea and sky, to dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth, and in radiant fellowship with the living God.

Jesus taught his disciples to live imaginatively, to do unto others as you would have them do to you. That is, enter into the experiences of others, and view life from that perspective. ^{concern merged with} Compassion is imagination ~~merged with~~ Commitment is ^{the} teaming-up power of will and imagination. Adoration is reverence *fused* ~~merged~~ with imagination.

Yes, "life is pure flame," and its brilliance may be ~~maintained~~ fanned by imagination. Wise is the person who seeks opportunity to experience the blending of silence and beauty and imagination, who arranges for leisure to enjoy music and ideas and ^{Vision.} ~~imagination~~ ^{individual power of identification} And happy is the ~~man~~ whose ~~imagination~~ enriches communion with God *and fellowship with man.* ^{imagination} ~~and fellowship with his fellows.~~ Life is enriched and made holy by time exposures of the soul to the beautiful, the true, the good, the most harmonious.

How stupid of us to be taken prisoner by fleshly appetite and worldly ambition! ~~We~~ ^{we} are made for rapture. Day by day we may be led by imagination into moods of wonder and awe, gratitude and thanksgiving, ^{into} to the sheer joy of being alive, as the eyes of ~~our~~ ^{the} heart are enlightened. Train imagination to keep trimmed the wicks of the flame of life, and walk joyously as guided by ~~The~~ Inner Light.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Publication

The Quakers have much to teach us about peace of mind.
~~much about~~
In a really marvelous way they have often combined serenity and compassion. In the experience of the faithful member of the Society of Friends ~~that~~ there is much silence - in the meeting, in the home, during the day's work. The ancient admonition, "Be still, and know that I am God," has been taken seriously. In the ^{session} ~~meeting~~ for business, no vote is ever taken. After quiet preparation of mind and heart, discussion and examination of varying points of view, the sense of the meeting is felt and record, or no decision will be ^{made} ~~reached~~ until unity of will is reached.

The Quaker way is rooted in ~~the conviction~~ a deep conviction: In every man there is that of God, an inner light which ~~the~~ enables him to discern the will of God and provides power to do it. In private prayer and in corporate worship, the individual centers down in living silence and waits for guidance from the divine spirit. A venerable Quaker like Rufus Jones in his latter years has been ministered to by ~~many~~ ^{of} thousands of hours of expectant waiting for the stirring of the spirit. Hurrying into action is not the way of the Friends, who have three hundred years of experience with the power of quietness and eager listening to the voice of the Eternal. Yet ~~no part of~~ ^{other} Christendom has earned the gratitude of mankind for hearts of compassion and deeds of ~~many~~ lovingkindness as have the Quakers.

^{taken to heart}
The Quakers have ~~read often~~ the words of our Lord:

"I shall ask the Father to give you Someone else to stand by you, to be with you always. I mean the Spirit of Truth... I leave behind with you - peace; I give you My own peace and My gift is nothing like the peace of this world." The redemption of mankind awaits the perfect union of serenity and compassion.

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Other-worldliness is the most serious need of this generation. The idea of "pie in the sky" has long been derided, and in the scramble for more ~~pie~~ pie on this ⁴earth prodigious energy is being consumed. So fierce the competitive struggle, so exhausted the human body, so tired human faculties, that too often our generation seeks release in sensuality and frivolity.

Consider this judgment upon the products of materialism: "Over against the ever more amazing inventions of science we see a kind of childishness creeping over our thoughts, our modes of expression, our art, our music, our morals. We croon primitive songs while we push one another round a room in dances that need no brain, no zest, no vitality for their successful performance. The novels we read, apparently with pleasure, show men and women as ill-conducted children whose one concern is that which they share with the animal world. There is to me something grim and horrible in an essentially mature civilization playing at savage immaturity when it knows better."

We need a revival of emphasis upon other-worldliness - less preoccupating with the world of the flesh and more concern about the world of the spirit; less absorption in the visible material world; and more at-homeness in the invisible world of the spirit; less priority to the requirements of this transitory earthly existence, and ~~more~~ richer experiences of eternity in the midst of time and in the ages to come.

Thus we must not tarry too long in the dining room, but *spend more time in* ~~move more quickly into~~ the living room, the library, the craft shop, the music conservatory, the art studio, and especially in the prayer room and the the sanctuary.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Duplicate

imagination
If you want your ~~mind~~ to explore God's ways of equipping man to triumph over adversity, acquaint yourself with the structure and endowments of plant life ^{and of animals} ~~in the~~ in the desert.

~~There are many other miracles in the desert, including the~~

The Giant Sahuaro is one of the most miraculous of all God's creations. It thrives in a veritable inferno with the temperature running as high as ¹³⁰ ~~200~~ degrees, and sometimes lives to be two hundred and fifty years old, although it may not be blessed with a drop of rain for as long as three years. ^{it} ~~it~~ never fails to ~~produce~~ ^{produce} an annual crop of fruit, which helps to sustain life for insects, birds and animals, and makes a delicious preserve for human enjoyment. It is further equipped for survival with a trunk which no animal can climb and which no creature nibbles away.

Other miracles are to be found in the desert, including ^e ~~the~~ the Century plant which blooms just once in its lifetime; the ~~cholla~~ cholla, "a miniature mortress on the ~~xxxx~~ desert, fighting for its right to exist"; and the cactus ~~wren~~ wren which builds its nest and rears its young ~~in~~ within the bristling cholla. ✓

Enter into this experience of the beauty of the desert: "Turquoise skies, far horizons, vast reaches, blue-veiled mountains with tinted peaks, gray granite crags and purple-shadowed canyons, flaming wonder of the sunset, still mystery of the star-crowded night, gentle majesty of the morning, golden glory of the sun-filled day, an almost unbroken carpet of living color, turned to gold by wild poppies, when one could not put foot to the ground without crushing a blossom."

Surely God is able, out of the soil of ^{human} ~~adversity~~ adversity, to make the ~~living~~ soul blossom as a rose.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

duplicate

Let Phillips share with us
The insight of this fresh
Translation: "At present
All we see is the baffling
Reflection of reality; we
Are like men looking at a
Landscape in a small mirror.
The time will come when we
Shall see reality whole and
Face to face." The most
Eminent men of science
Confess that what we know,
As contrasted with what we
Do not know, is but a
Speck of dust floating in
The abyss of space. And
Most elementary is our
Knowledge of the life of
The spirit, the invisible
Relationship between man
And man and God. Long *has*
~~had~~ *Concentrated* Energy been
~~concentrated~~ On mastery of the
Material world. Thrilling
would be
~~discoveries~~ of the
Discoveries ~~which~~
Made if an equivalent
~~effort~~ *devoted* were ~~given~~
To ways of deepening

Fellowship human and divine!
Many are the intimations ~~that~~
That we are on the verge of
~~Marvellous~~ *Marvellous* discoveries. The
~~Bankruptcy~~ of materialism
Is now visible to all who
Will see. Toynbee brings to
An end his ten-volume Study
Of History with an eloquent
Plea for religion, and many
Men of thought are groping
Their way toward God. Not
On the foundation of greed
And competitive struggle,
But on the solid rock of
Love of God and love of man
Can the good life ~~be~~
~~be~~ *be* built, and
Release given to
~~the~~ *the*
~~boundless~~ *boundless* potentialities
Of human personality. Yes
Indeed, "Here and now we
Are God's children. We
Don't know what we shall
Become in the future. We
Only know that, if reality
Were to break through, we
Should reflect His likeness,
For we should see him
As He really is."

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

"When I see thy heavens, the
Work of thy fingers ... what
Is man that thou shouldst
Think of him?" What would
Be the exclamation as the
Psalmist gazed through the
Big glass on Palomar? He
would be told that, while
Light travels a million
Miles in six seconds, the
Rays that he beholds have
Journeyed millions of
Years to reach his ^{sight} ~~eyes~~
and that while the number
Of celestial bodies runs
Into billions, some of
Them are so far away from
Their nearest neighbor as
To be ^a lonely hermit [^] lost
In the wilderness of space.
In a laboratory he would be
Initiated into mysteries of
The invisible world, where
Atoms are legion beyond
Numbering, and yet, like
Heavenly bodies, are ^{set back} ~~initiated~~
Apart by an abyss of space.
And if the Psalmist should
Again inquire, "What is ~~man~~
Man?" ^{the reply would be:} ~~he would be told:~~ He
Is inventor of ponderous
Machines that ^{cross} ~~the~~ continents
[^]

And submarines that cruise ~~the~~
^{all the} ~~the~~ seas. He removes
Mountains and dig^s rivers.
With one blow he destroyed
Hiroshima, and now holds
Enough power to annihilate.
Who is man? He is Hitler
And his incinerators ^{filled with} ~~and~~ ^{Joe}
Human ashes, ^{he is John Q. Public} ~~and his~~
~~and his~~ He is Albert
Schweitzer and his hospital,
Jane Addams and Hull House.
He is beast of prey, and
Soul at prayer. What is
Man? He is ~~a~~ creature
Endowed by his Creator with
^{and trusted with power & decision}
Freedom of choice. [^] He is ~~the~~
Sinner when centered in
Himself, and saint when he
God's will.
Elects to do ~~the will of God~~
He may dwell in hell, and
He may move into heaven.
"Here and now ^{are} ~~are~~ God's
[^] children. We don't know what
We shall become in the future.
We only know that, if reality
Were to break through, we
Should reflect His likeness,
For we should see Him as He
[^] really is!"
[^]

raising
Hiroshima
Dresden with
block-bombers "and fire bombs"

?

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

"There are also a great many
Other things which Jesus
Did, which if they were
Written one by one, not
believe,
Even this world, I ~~could~~
Could contain the books
Which would be written."
Thus endeth the Gospel
Of Saint John. And we in
Our day may well ask,
What hyperbole would be
Ample to portray the total
Influence of our Lord in
Succeeding centuries upon
All mankind? A complete
Bibliography of Jesus in
All tongues, a full list
Of all written works about
Him - how colossal would be
The number of massive
Volumes filled? Imagine
What would happen to the
Books in our largest
Library if, with the blade
Of a razor, every reference
To Jesus, his teaching and
Influence, were cut out!
Consider the imprint made
By the carpenter of Galilee

Upon literature, philosophy,
Theology, social science,
Music, art, architecture,
Economics, ~~politics~~ race relations,
Upon human ideas and ideals
politics and government -
And achievements. This
light and
Mighty stream of illumination
And power has swept onward
Toward God an inconceivably
Vast multitude, for the
Simple reason: Above every
Other power in the universe,
Save only the infinite energy
Of the Eternal, Jesus has
Succeeded in generating holy
Love - an ever-deepening
Concern about human
Wellbeing, and an ever-expanding
Effort to do God's will in
Acts of lovingkindness - and
In weaving a seamless garment
Of ardent fellowship of man
With man and with God.
Only the boundlessness of
The universe, and the
Timelessness of eternity
Can contain a record of
All the things
Which Jesus has done.

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

The Gospel of John thus Made by the carpenter of
Ends: "There are also a Nazareth upon literature,
Great many things which Philosophy, theology, ~~the~~
Jesus did, which if they Social science, music, art,
Were written one by one, Architecture - upon human
Not even this world, I Ideas and ideals and
Believe, could contain the Achievements. This mighty
Books which would be Stream of illumination and
Written." Power has swept onward
Toward God an inconceivably
Vast multitude,
What hyperbole would be ~~amplified~~
Ample to ~~portray~~ the ~~universe~~ for the simple reason:
Total influence of our Lord ^{in succeeding years} Above every other power in
monkind? ~~the~~
Upon all ~~generations~~ The universe, save only the
~~universe~~ A complete Infinite energy of the
Bibliography of Jesus in Eternal, Jesus has ^{has succeeded in} generated
All tongues, a full list ^{Holy} love - an ever-deepening
Of all written works about ^{well-being,} Concern about human ~~welfare~~
Him - how colossal would be And an ever-expanding effort
The number of massive To do God's will in acts of
Volumes filled? Imagine Lovingkindness ~~universe~~
What would happen to the ~~universe~~ - and in weaving a
Books in our largest Seamless garment of ardent
Library if, with the blade Fellowship of man with man
Of a razor, every reference And with God. Only the
To Jesus, his teaching and Boundlessness of the
Influence, were cut out! Universe, and the ~~universe~~
Consider ~~the imprint~~ the imprint
Can contain a record of
All the things which
Jesus has done.

economics, politics, government, race

relations -

Mighty stream of light and
Power has swept on toward
God an inconceivably vast

Multitude, for the simple
Reason: above every other
Power in the universe, save
Only the infinite energy of
The Eternal, Jesus has been
Able to generate holy love -
An ever-deepening concern
About human well-being, and
An ever-expanding effort to
Do God's will in acts of
Lovingkindness - and to
Weave a seamless garment
Of ardent fellowship of man
With man and with God.
Only the boundlessness
Of the universe, and
The timeliness of eternity
Can contain a record
Of all the things
Which Jesus has done.

The Gospel of John ends thus

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

duplicate

With Saint Paul we must cry:
"I feel myself under a sort
Of universal obligation. I
Owe something to all men,
From cultured Greek to
Ignorant savage." So it is
With every individual, and
In every area of life. "No
Man lives to himself, and
No man dies to himself."
Our very existence depends
Upon the millions of hands ~~and~~
And backs that provide us
With food and shelter and
Security. Our health is
Ministered to by sanitary
Engineer, carbage collector,
Street sweeper, doctor and
Dentist. Our safety is in
The care of fireman, traffic
Officer, policeman, and
Food inspector. What we
Learn is derived from brain
And voice and pen of a vast
Company - teacher, author,
Editor, reporter. For our
Books, magazines and papers
We are obligated to hewer
Of ^{wood} Wood, artisan, mechanic,

Truck driver, writer,
Publisher, printer, seller,
Delivery boy. And how
Enriched our lives by the
Genius and labor of Bach
And Beethoven, Raphael and
Michelangelo! Beyond all
Imagination is our spiritual
Indebtedness to prophet and
Saint and martyr, and above
All other^s to our Lord, and
The long succession of his
Disciples who journeyed
To far places with the Good
News. Precious indeed is
Our heritage through the
Church, with its sanctuary,
Altar, pulpit, classroom,
And beneficent impacts.
Utterly beyond repayment
Is our debt to father,
Mother, son, daughter,
Brother, sister, friend.
With exultant heart, "I
Feel myself under a sort
Of universal obligation. I
Owe something to all men,
From cultured Greek to
Ignorant savage."

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

It was Nicholas Berdyaev who wrote: "The self-assertion of a group is the form of self-assertion from which there is least hope of escape." Long before Jesus had pointed out the peril of placing love of family above devotion to God and loyalty to the divine way of life. So emphatic were his words that years later they were ~~also~~ recorded in this form: "If anyone comes to me without 'hating' his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be ~~the~~ a disciple of mine. The man who will not take up his cross and follow in my footsteps cannot be my disciple." The meaning of this hyperbole is crystal clear: nothing, absolutely nothing must be placed above commitment to the will of God.

Every Christian husband is under obligation to ^{make a fresh examination,} ~~examine~~ ^{of} under the eyes of God, his relations with his wife and children. ~~But~~ If he discovers that his concern for their wellbeing is causing him to conform to ~~social economic customs and practices~~ which he knows to be contrary to the will of God, he must in a mood of contrition ^{humble} ~~seek~~ ^{seek} God's forgiveness ^{servently implore} and ~~especially~~ ^{and} ~~for~~ guidance as to actions and relations which will be pleasing to the Eternal.

Many are the temptations of a Christian patriot to put concern for his nation above commitment to God. The demand of nationalism is that, in time ^{of} great peril, the citizen should do "whatever is necessary" to protect his country and to defend its way of life. When ~~called upon~~ on a military mission, the patriot is called upon to deceive, to lie, to steal, to kill, even to ~~engage in~~ ^{engage in} ~~bring about~~ mass slaughter. When done in the name of patriotism, do these acts become right in the sight of God?

(W)

On March 4, 1921 - three months before I resigned from the Ridgewood den Church and began my indepent work - the reign of normalcy under President Harding began. Big business was in the saddle, and rode ~~hard~~ furiously in pursuit of private gain. ~~The~~ ~~freedom~~ of Woodrow Wilson was replaced by the ~~liberty~~ ~~to operate business with minimum interference from government.~~ The good old days had returned. Subsequent to the death of President Harding in 1923, Congressional committees rocked the country with revelations of graft, corruption and scandals in the departments of Justice, Navy, Interior, in the Veterans Bureau, and the Office of Alien Property Custodian. Major scandals involved the lease of naval oil reserves at Teapot Dome and Elk Hills. Prison sentences were imposed upon Secretary Albert B. Fall, ~~Colonel Forbes~~, ~~Colonel Miller~~, ~~Sinclair~~, ~~Secretary Denby~~ and Attorney General Daughterty were driven from ~~office~~, and the Supreme Court invalidated the Teapot Dome and the Elk Hills leases. The moral of this tale is told by a historian:

And how did the American people take these disclosures? Did they rise in wrath to punish the offenders... the harshest condemnation on the part of the press and the public was reserved, not for those who had defrauded the government, but for those who insisted on bringing the facts to light... One of the leading super-patriots of the land, Fred R. Marvin of the Key Men of America, said the whole oil scandal was the result of "a gigantic international conspiracy... of the internationalists, or shall we call them socialists and communists?" ... disturbance of the status quo was the last thing that the dominant business class or the country at large wanted. They had voted for normalcy and they still believed in it.

see
(M)

GOD OF THE POLAR NIGHT

By Kirby Page

The night lasted for one hundred and thirty-two days! Two men and a woman were buried in a hut beneath the snow, far above the Arctic Circle. For extended periods Christine Ritter was utterly alone. Enter now into her experience:

"I am alone in the furious drum-fire of a blizzard. It began nine days ago, only a few hours after the men left to set the traps in a distant hunting ground. As the storm increased in violence, the hollow roar swelled into almost continuous thunder... Overnight it has become dead quiet... It leads to a vast stillness, in a world of unimaginable splendor. The earth seems to be floating in transparent space... Today the heavens are shining in the blue light of the vanished day. In the north a red-yellow moon stands out against a bank of fog." ~~Like the reflections of a distant conflagration, the northern lights drift in subdued reddish gleams across the sky...~~ Northern lights of incredible intensity stream over the sky, their bright rays resembling gleaming rods of glass. In radiant lilacs, greens and pinks, they swing and whirl in a wild dance that sweeps over the entire sky... No one who has not experienced it can have any idea of the effect of the moonlight on the smooth frozen surface of the north. It is as though one were dissolving in light; one's entire consciousness is penetrated by the brightness... How wonderful it is here! The power of this world-wide peace takes hold of me. I am conscious only of the immense solitude. Under this radiant heaven, a man's spirit is also calm, clear and radiant.... I shall never forget the loveliness of the morning twilight. The whole sky is deep lilac, lightening to a tender cobalt blue at the horizon. For the east a pale yellow brightness spreads, and the frozen sea, reflecting the heavenly colors, shines like an immense opal... I understand now why my husband said, 'You have to be alone in the Arctic to know what life really means.'"

No. 284 to No. 345

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

These devotional readings are free, and may be obtained upon request.

One purpose is for use on the church page of newspapers, and in papers published by local churches.

They are used also in devotional meetings and prayer groups, and for sick visitation.

Missionaries, student secretaries, seminary students, Sunday School teachers, leaders of youth groups, women's societies and other church agencies may send for them. Interested individuals should ~~write to~~ [^] ~~initiate in~~ ^{pass} along the word, especially to editors and ministers, that they are free upon request.

KIRBY PAGE

Box 247, La Habra, California

MAN IS MORE THAN A SINNER

By Kirby Page

Social action by Christians is decisively affected by convictions concerning the nature of man. What we attempt is determined ^{chiefly} largely by what we think can be accomplished. The content of preaching on social issues is decided primarily by ^{the} minister's ^{ideas about} ~~understanding of the nature of~~ human nature.

Let us begin where there is wide agreement: man is a sinner,

2

~~MAN IS MORE THAN A SINNER~~

~~By Kirby Page~~

bull

~~Man is a sinner~~, and society is ~~a cesspool~~ of iniquity. Our generation stands aghast ^{before} ~~in the presence of~~ torture chambers and ovens filled with human ashes. We recoil from the devastation and slaughter of modern war, and are appalled by the desolation wrought by racial segregation. Pride and arrogance, greed and lust, fear and hatred, treachery and violence are dividing ^{Communities} ~~neighborhoods~~ and continents into warring camps. Sin is a terrible reality, and its havoc is beyond human computation.

But man is a sinner created in the divine image, and society is meant to be the Kingdom of God on earth. Every human being is of precious worth to God, and is the object of his unwearied solicitude. It is not the will of our Father that a single one of his children should be lost; it is his will that all should have abundant and eternal life. Thus he has equipped us with all the faculties needed to enable us to love him and ~~our~~ neighbors and ~~our~~ enemies. He is ever prompting us with high aspirations and deep yearnings, and challenging us to do his holy will. Out of his great love has come the gift of freedom, the power to make choices. And he trusts us with the use of ^{our} ~~the~~ faculties, even when liberty is corrupted into defiance and rebellion. Even then

^{never} ~~he does not desert us but continues his persuasions until we are~~ penitent, and accept his forgiveness, ^{and power.} He has provided for us all the ^{re} ~~sources~~ ^{ed} ~~we need to live the good life.~~ ^{He} sent his Son to be the revelation of his own character; and through Jesus' example, teaching, fidelity on the cross, and living presence, we may be redeemed. ^{are impelled to seek} ~~through right relationships with~~

God and man.

He never deserts us, but continues his persuasions until we are stricken with penitence, and eagerly accept his forgiveness and power. He loves us so much that he sent his Son our Lord to guide us, and on the unmerited cross God suffered with Jesus for our redemption. And he has so fashioned us that we may enter into eternal life. Because in him we live and have our being, and are but a little lower than angels, it ~~doth~~ ^{does} not appear what we shall be, except that we shall be like him.

who is
Thus man is a sinner ~~and~~ a potential saint. The society of Jesus' day ~~was characterized by~~ ^{revealed war} ~~tyranny and~~ ^{exploitation, greed} ~~his disciples~~ ^{ambition, lust and passion,} rebellion and crucifixion. Yet our Lord taught ~~his disciples~~ to pray for the coming of God's reign on earth, to forgive times without number, to heap upon enemies burning coals of love, to accept responsibility as co-workers in a divine cause, and to enter into a holy fellowship of suffering. In the New Testament man is a sinner, ~~and~~ ^{letting his light shine} called upon to offer himself as a living sacrifice, bearing in his body the ~~marks~~ ^{letting his light shine} of Christ, and scattering everywhere the perfume of divine fragrance. The triumphant proclamation resounds that man the sinner may become a new creature in Christ. Throughout the emphasis is less upon the depravity of man ~~than~~ ^{and more} upon his kinship with God. And in John's Gospel is the amazing prophecy that the disciples will do the mighty works of their Lord, and even greater deeds because - because of divine resources.

Christianity is not a religion of pessimism, but of exultant ^{anticipation.} ~~Three~~ ^{Ardent} imperishable ^s are faith and hope and love. ~~Intense joyous~~ expectancy and not brooding despair was the atmosphere of the early church, and the cry rang out, Rejoice!

4

This radiance of ~~the~~ early Christianity ^{is sorely needed now.} ~~must be recovered.~~
We must face the future with the realization that ~~the~~ same God and
Father of our Lord Jesus who wrought so mightily on the day of
Pentecost and subsequently in the catacombs of Rome, is the living
God who ^{is} at this moment seeking admission to our minds and affections
and wills, and ~~that~~ his power has ~~not~~ nowise diminished. The Lord
who on the first Easter broke the bonds of death to live evermore
is standing by the side of every sinful individual with power to
deliver. ample

We should enter the sanctuary with eager expectation and with
fervent desire to be filled with the wisdom and power of the Eternal.
~~Our~~ Our conversations and discussions ~~we~~ should express hope, and
our plans for action ~~should~~ ^{be} based upon courageous anticipation. Sin is
not the decisive reality. More momentous is man's penitence and
longing for forgiveness and ~~restoration~~ restoration. Our hope
^{springs} ~~comes~~ from the self-giving concern of God and his initiative in
seeking ~~our~~ our deliverance from the bondage of sin. Our faith is
not ~~impotent~~ impotent when confronted by sin; it is the power of God unto
salvation. ~~Indifference of paralyzing Christianity is a danger~~
~~to avoid paralysis from excessive concentration on sin. Excessive~~
~~manipulation of sin~~

Comradeship is ~~the~~ a great word of the New Testament. God
seeks man, man yearns for God; children need ^{aid} help from the Father,
and he needs ^{cooperation} ~~help~~ from members of his family. God can be trusted
to do his part, and he ^{relies} ~~depends~~ upon faithful cooperation from
individuals. The will of God cannot be done on earth solely through
~~the~~ divine initiative, because God's reign is not dictatorship.
Man must ~~be~~ yield to divine promptings, repent, accept forgiveness ^{and} wisdom
and power, commit himself joyously as a co-worker in bringing in the

True enough, 5

beloved community. ^a The Kingdom ~~is~~ comes as a gift from God, but it must be received by men and women who have been made ready by himself ^{to receive it}. Man cannot build the good society, ~~by himself~~, ^{but} his awareness, responsiveness and commitment are essential. ^{regained} ~~are~~ We are not ^s puppet [^] directed by external manipulation. Meister Eckhart sounded an authentic note of the Christian Gospel when he exclaimed: "God needs me as much as I need Him." By himself the Father cannot build his Home. Comradeship is essential.

Thus we are called upon to accept responsibility. We have divine work to do, and God is depending upon us. But man's responsibility is limited, and ~~by~~ disaster overwhelms him when he thinks himself to be God. ^{Christ} Human responsibility is ^{expressed in} confined to continuing effort ^s to find what God wants ^{us} him to do, and ^{persevering} effort to do it. In the Christian scheme of things it is not permissible for an individual to ignore God and go his own way, nor is he justified in refraining from an endeavor to do what he knows God wants him to do. Man is not wise enough, or good enough, or sufficiently powerful to determine the ultimate outcome. God does not hold us responsible for final results. His requirement is that a man be found faithful. He must sow good seed and cultivate the soil, but the ^{harvest} ~~outcome~~ will be determined by the processes of God. Fidelity and not successful achievement is man's part. For that reason the ^{Bible} New Testament calls for obedience to the will of God and unwavering trust in God.

True discipleship requires that we ^{distinguish between} contrast what we are with ^{society} what God wants us to be, and that we contrast our present ^{coming full realization} social order with the ~~ideal~~ of the Kingdom of God on earth, for which ^{are called upon} our Lord taught his disciples to pray. We must continue to bear witness against ~~these aspects of~~ unchristian aspects of ^{the} political life, and race relations, ^{order} economic life, international affairs.

Our responsibility is to put forth

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer with understanding and sincerity we are praying for substantial changes in the present social order.

of course,

6

Individual Christians

~~We~~ are not responsible for the prevention of the third world war, ^{seeking} but we are responsible for the will of God for our lives in this crisis, and for ^{relationships} ~~attitudes and actions~~ which are pleasing to him.

No one of us is responsible for the abolition of racial discrimination and segregation, but we are accountable ^{what we think and do.} for ~~our attitudes and actions.~~

^{we} Nor are responsible for the transformation of a competitive economic order into the commonwealth of God on earth, but we must bear witness to the contrast between things as they are and the way God wants us to live, and reflect this witness through our own lives. Not ^{diligent search for} successful accomplishment, but ~~knowledge of~~ the will of God and faithfulness in endeavor to do it are the divine requirements.

Thus we should live by the conviction that man is more than a sinner; he is a co-worker in divine business. Less stress ^{should} ~~must~~ be placed upon personal and social sin than upon salvation from sin.

Our religion is good news of redemption through comradeship ^{human} between

Eternal
living

God and Christ, and ^{the living} ~~man himself.~~

Faith and hope and love ^{with the} ~~outlive~~

pessimism and despair.

a sense of fertility.

are more
creative
than

NOT ALL ARE IN ONE FOLD

By Kirby Page

Duplicate

The truth spoken by our Lord - "And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold" - is illustrated in our day by a Hindu saint, Vinoba Bhawe, who more than anyone else is Mahatma Gandhi's spiritual successor.

Bhawe comes from a high-caste Brahmin family. At twelve he took a vow of chastity and celibacy. Through rigid discipline he ^{learned} became ~~an authority~~ in Marathi literature, and ^{taught himself} ~~learned~~ to speak fifteen other languages. At the age of twenty he joined Gandhi, and in civil disobedience campaigns spent five years in British prisons. After Gandhi's death, ^{his faith in} ~~he became disillusioned concerning~~ political action ^{diminished, and he} ~~and~~ was one of the founders of an informal Society for the Welfare of All. Then he felt ~~impelled~~ ^{impelled} to devote himself to the landless in India's five hundred thousand villages. This was his simple appeal to those who owned land: "If you had five sons, you would divide up your wealth equally between them. Treat me as your sixth son. Give me a share of your land for the sake of 'God revealed in the poor.'" On foot ^{has} ~~he~~ he journeyed a distance greater than from New York to Los Angeles, in spite of chronic malaria and a stomach ulcer. His selflessness, radiant countenance and bold challenge made such a powerful impact that 230,000 donors have contributed more than five million acres to be shared with ~~the~~ landless families.

^{lives by}
Vinoba Bhawe ~~stated~~ the truth set forth long ago in the Book of James: "If a fellow man or woman has no clothes to wear and nothing to eat, and one of you say, 'Good luck to you, I hope you'll keep warm and find enough to eat,' and yet give them nothing to meet their physical needs, what on earth is the good of that? ... Yes, faith without action is as dead as a body without a soul."

Bhave is convinced that the spirit of sharing is the power that will bring about revolutionary changes in society peaceably and without the violence of the Communists. He hopes precipitate to bring about a change of heart and thus release moral power. He says: "We do not aim at doing mere acts of kindness but at creating a kingdom of kindness."

duplicate

MEDICINE AND WORSHIP

Insight and inspiration are found in this passage from ~~Dr. Howard E. Collier~~ Dr. Howard E. Collier, a British Quaker practicing physician: ↑

“Of all the things that I have learned from my contacts with Quakerism, one thing stands out. The healing influences and power reside neither in the doctor, nor in his medicines, nor in surgical operations. Doctors may cure ^{diseases;} ~~diseases;~~ medicines and operations may remove the hindrances that are preventing healing, but only the healing powers of God - alone make men whole. As Ambroise Pare once said: 'I dressed his wound; but God healed him.' ~~It is folly to try to study living organisms only in a physical frame of reference.~~

"I asked myself, how explain many cases of unexpected recovery in constitutionally enfeebled persons, and especially among those who were surrounded by the love and the prayers of their friends and relations? Science suggested that such facts as these were irrelevant. Believe me, they are not irrelevant in private practice, where everything may seem to turn upon the faith of a mother or upon the loving care of a daughter for her sick parent... These opened my eyes to the possibility that faith, prayer and worship might heal, even when all else seemed to have failed...

"I have seen many a person made whole in spirit whose physical health remained far below normal for his age. As George Fox once said, 'There be miracles in the spirit of which the world knows nothing.' I have never stopped to ask whether ~~the~~ patients were cured by digitalis, by psychology, or by religious healing. All that matters is that by the

complete treatment people are always helped, and frequently
made whole... Health is given to man, or health is restored,
in order to serve, and never for self-gratification."

No. 286

JOYOUS TONIC FOR BODY AND SOUL

By Kirby Page

Physicians have long emphasized the close relationship between mind and body. Emotions sometimes produce ulcers, ^{ness} and healthy-minded ^A may increase bodily vigor. Listen to this testimony from Frank Laubach:

"If depressing thoughts can cause pain and even organic disease, imagine what health can flow down the ~~nerves~~ nerves from your mind if you are stimulated every minute by the joyous tonic of being sure that Christ is here, by your side, unseen but intensely real, speaking to you, opening doors for you, smiling at you, loving you, working with you, ahead of you, and for you! 'If God be for us who can be against us? ... For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' The electric effect of this minute-by-minute walking with his close, warm, breathing, living person at our sides sends charge after charge of energy *down* ~~our~~ our tingling nerves to our very finger tips, building health in every fiber. This was the spiritual tonic from God which Jesus felt when he said, 'I have meat to eat that ye know not of.'"

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness... For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

FAR BACK IN THE AGES

By Kirby Page

duplicate

Ninety years ago Horace Bushnell shed this illumination upon the meaning of the Cross: "It is as if there were a cross unseen, standing on its undiscovered hill, far back in the ages, out of which were sounding always, just the same deep voice of suffering love and patience, that was heard by mortal ears from the sacred hill of Calvary."

Just so, the Cross is an eternal attitude and relationship. In the beginning was the character of God, the Word of God, the Logos; and the Word was God, and from earliest dawn God was self-giving, forgiving love, and ever shall he be. That is why the Cross of Christ reveals the true nature of our divine Father as he is nowhere else made vivid.

This truth is far more than a theological dogma, it is a fact of utmost significance. Nothing could be so momentous to an individual as the good news that he is the object of the unwearying solicitude of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. So ~~limitless~~ boundless is the love of God that he made man in his own image, equipped him with all the faculties needed for comradeship, ^{and beyond all this he} brought forth Jesus from the grave to ^{continues to knock} be a constant presence, ~~and~~ ^{person} ~~knocks constantly~~ at the door of every ~~man~~ ^{person} with eager desire to grant abundant and eternal life. Human responsiveness provides God with opportunity, and God never misses an opportunity.

It is the nature of love to suffer when the beloved is ~~unresponsive~~ ^{Alphar's} unresponsive. ^{Man's} is man's power to ignore God and to defy him. Crucifixion is a relationship. Man's freedom may be used in glorious companionship, and it may be perverted into ~~destructive crucifixions~~ ^{attitudes and actions} which produce suffering in the heart of the Eternal.

HUMILITY
AND FAITH

duplicate in China, nearly a century ago

Timothy Richard tells of an experience ^{when he} ~~had~~ ^{denounced} a ~~Chinese~~ ^{man} ~~opponent~~ ^{denouncing} Christianity as cruel and inhuman. When he inquired why the man ~~believed this~~ ^{believed this}, he was shown books by a medical missionary in which there were anatomical and surgical illustrations. "Ignorance of the humane object of ~~surgery~~ surgery, he regarded operations as proof of the cruelty of Christians."

Likewise, man's ignorance of ^{the} spiritual ^{world} ~~processes~~ has often caused him to attribute to God acts of vengeance and cruelty. We religious people need a fuller measure of the humility which is now being shown by the really great physical scientists. They realize that ^{many} explanations which were accepted as valid at the beginning of this century have been set aside by lines ^{contradictory} of reasoning. ~~Enveloped in a vast universe~~ Enveloped in a vast universe of mystery, the man of true science is humble and expectant. Even Einstein ^{confessed} ~~was aware~~ of his ^{own} ~~dense~~ ignorance.

Concerning God's way ^{of} working, we are still in the kindergarten of the spiritual life. Our knowledge does not warrant arrogance and dogmatism. ~~Humility, eager receptivity~~ Humility, eager receptivity and passion for truth enable God to reveal himself to us, will for our lives, and lead us into fuller knowledge of his ~~ways of working~~.

Humility is not synonymous with flabbiness or inertia. Humility is awareness of guilt and incompleteness, and yearning for fullness of life. "The just shall live by faith" - trust in the wisdom and power and love of God, and determination to do that which is pleasing ~~to our~~ in his sight. ~~divine Father,~~

DEFEAT MAY LET THE GLORY OUT

By Kirby Page

duplicate

~~A century ago~~ When John Bright's young wife was
a century ago,
lying dead in the home, his friend Richard Cobden said to
him: "There are thousands of houses in England at this
where
moment ~~when~~ wives, mothers and children are dying of hunger.
Now, when the first paroxysm of your grief is past, I would
advise you to come with me, and we will ~~never~~ rest till the
Corn Law is repealed." And this was the beginning of
John Bright's career as one of the greatest reformers and
benefactors of the British people.

Grief may be ~~paralyzing~~ embittering, and bereavement
may be crushing. Tragedy often strikes as a bolt of despair.
But pain and loneliness have frequently been opens windows
through which God has entered with comfort and assurance/
and challenge. Every pastor can tell you of handicapped
and bereaved whose
and afflicted individuals ~~are~~ radiant lives bless all who
touch them - men and women who have so adjusted their
sails that the winds of adversity constantly blow them *toward*
~~into~~ *other* God and fellowship with persons.
It is not what happens to us that shapes our lives, but
the way we take it.

"Defeat may serve as well as victory
To shake the soul and let the glory out.
When the great oak is straining in the wind
The boughs drink in new beauty, and the trunk
Sends down a deeper root on the win^dward side.
Only the soul that knows the mighty grief
Can know the mighty rapture. Sorrows come
To stretch out spaces in the heart for joy."

(Edwin Markham).

POWER FOR TWO WORLDS

By Kirby Page

duplicate

Beyond human comprehension is the power of almighty God. In the material world the force latent within the invisible atom staggers the mind, and in the ^{invisible} spiritual realm we are surrounded by energy beyond all our needs. For milleniums of time man was ignorant of many forms of material might, ^{and} to this moment multitudes of human beings fail to utilize illimitable spiritual resources within their reach. Hear this testimony from Alexis Carrel, one of the great scientists of this age:

"Prayer is not only worship; it is also an invisible emanation of man's worshipful spirit - the most powerful form of energy that one can generate. The influence of prayer on the human mind and body is as demonstrable as that of secreting glands. Its results can be measured in terms of increased physical buoyancy, a greater intellectual vigor, moral stamina, and a deeper understanding of the realities underlying human relationships... Prayer is a force as real as terrestrial gravity. As a physician I have seen men, after all therapy had failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the serene effort of prayer. It is the only power in the world that seems to ~~make~~ overcome the so-called 'laws of nature'; the occasions on which prayer has dramatically done this have been termed 'miracles.' But a constant, quieter miracle takes place hourly in the hearts of men and women ^{who} have discovered that prayer supplies them with a steady flow of sustained power in their daily lives."

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."

Art
The ~~Power~~ of Fervent Sympathy
^

Practice is required if we are to enter with understanding into the thinking and feeling and experience of another person, and ~~discipline~~ ^{discipline} is needed if we are to respond intelligently and compassionately to his situation. Our endeavor should be to view him through the eyes of God and to place our Father's stamp of worth upon him. Behold him as an object of the living Christ's deep solicitude and hear the gentle knock of our Lord upon the door of his life.

Bring to mind a ~~particular~~ ^{particular}
Be specific. ~~Pay attention to~~ ^{even} individual, and recognize him.

He may be unattractive and repellant. He may be in your way and stand as a threat of some kind to you, to your ~~ambitions~~ ^{ambitions} or your security. He may appear to be an enemy of society. ^{He may have done you} In an unhurried period of reflection and prayer, inquire: Who is he? He is ~~a~~ ^a child of God with faculties like my own; ~~individual~~ ^{individual} with ideas and feelings and aspirations; he is, like myself, a creature of heredity and environment and stimuli, inner and external; that play upon him incessantly; he also wants to belong, to be wanted, to make his life count; within him ~~are vast resources~~ ^{also deep} ~~wealth~~ ^{wealth} ~~waiting~~ ^{waiting} to be excavated and utilized for creative living; he is a fellow-sinner standing in the need of forgiveness.

In relation to this ~~person~~ ^{soul}, what is the significance for you of the teaching of Jesus? The fatherhood of God? the brotherhood of man? the sacredness of personality? the duty of the strong to bear the burdens of the weak? the responsibility of the well to heal the sick? the obligation to forgive seventy times seven?

Because he is of precious worth to God and is very dear to our Lord, pray that you may be able to enter sympathetically into his life and understand his ~~problem~~ ^{need}. What is his problem? Wish him well. Resolve to treat him the way God wants you to deal with him. Hold him tenderly in your hands

(Do this before you read on).

(Do you now envisage such a person?)

see him before you. personally a grave injustice or a terrible wrong.

as you lift him before God in warm intercession. Seek to enable our Father to do for this person everything that in his love and wisdom he is endeavoring to do. Pray for personal guidance that you may be a co-worker with God in bringing rich blessing to him. Let your devotion to the Golden Rule transform your relations with him.

Blessed is the man who has learned to be at home within himself in his own house. Tragic is the condition of a person who, when apart from other individuals, is haunted by a sense of loneliness. We are thus reminded by John Pulsford: "Man is no better than a leaf driven by the wind until he has completely mastered his great lonely duties. If he has no habit of retiring from all that is world and of conversing face to face with his inner man; if he does not, alone, invite the gaze of God; if he does not draw down upon his soul ~~the~~ 'the power of the world to come,' then he is no man yet; he has not found the life of man nor the strength of man; he is a poor, unhappy creature, sporting only with shadows, and affrighted before the real and the eternal. He owns a great house, a wonderful house, but it is shut up, and he lives outside with his fellow cattle; the inside is wholly unknown to him, and he has lived outside so long that he is afraid of the inside."

remind ourselves frequently
We can ~~mitigate the realization~~ that we are invisible spirits residing in a physical body, and that the most precious experiences are relationships with other invisible spirits

Learning To Be At Home With One's Own Self

In the school of life an important lesson is to learn to be at home with one's own self, to practice reflection, contemplation and introversion. Thus we are reminded by John Pulsford: "Man is no

Our Christian faith is that man is never alone. Always he is in the company of the invisible God and the living Christ. ~~■~~ We may be unaware of these holy guests, we may endeavor to barricade our doors against their entrance, we may reject their promptings. But they remain closer than hands or feet and nearer than breathing. They are not detectives acquiring evidence with which to convict us. They come with the loving purpose of persuading us to accept the wealth of life they offer.

emptying and filling,
Prayer is speaking and listening, [^] offering and receiving ~~■~~.

When our God-given faculties are responsive to divine guidance, we behold ourselves ^{we} as ^{that which} really are ^{form} ~~^~~, and we reach upward toward [^] what we may become. Listening is the most transforming ^{to use} ~~part~~ of prayer, with yearning responding [^] to the initiative of God as he seeks [^] ~~in~~ our thinking and ^{our} feeling, our deciding and our doing in ~~the~~ releasing ~~World's~~ ^{vast} undeveloped resources hidden within. Through sustained and frequent times of quiet thought and holy aspiration, we are led in the exploration of room after room ⁱⁿ ~~our~~ ^{home.} ~~own~~ ^{own household,} ~~own~~ until we become joyously at home with ourselves.

ourselves.

Forgive us, dear God, for the times we have been afraid to be alone [^] with [^].
Kindle our minds with keener realization of the richness of the resources thou hast bestowed upon us in endowing us with such marvelous faculties.
Strengthen our determination to walk hand in hand with thee through the ^{our} spacious mansions of our soul. Amen.

Recently I have been reading again accounts of the austerities
and severities practiced by ^{some of the} early Christian ascetics, and have been
repelled by many of their attitudes and habits, but at the same time ^{my appreciation}
~~they have captured~~ my admiration ^{has been} has been heightened.
^{deepened}
^{and}

Being aware of the ravages wrought ⁱⁿ the life of the spirit by
and worldly ambitions,
excessive indulgence of bodily appetites, they sought to conquer their
physical nature; to overcome the love of ease, to ^{annihilate} ~~stamp out~~ the craving for
to uproot pride and envy and jealousy.
rich food, to destroy sexual passion, In this endeavor they went to
utmost extremes: some continuously sought new ^{mutilated} ways of inflicting pain
of increasing severity upon their bodies; some subsisted on the bare
some exercised ingenuity in keeping themselves awake for extended periods;
amount of food required to sustain life; some completely separated
themselves from human company, living alone in deserted places and
and on high towers;
caves of wild beasts, some men persisted for decades in their refusal
to look upon the face of a woman, keeping eyes closed ^{in the presence even of} ~~in the presence of~~
~~their~~ mother and sister; some women terribly disfigured their
faces and shoulders and hands to make sure that they would not receive ^{by the church honored with} ~~any~~
advances from men; These men and women ^{some of whom} ~~some of whom~~ ^{the status} ~~of saints~~
spent their days and nights in unending battle with the world,
the flesh, and the devil.

some ~~many of them~~
they rejected all amenities of life, including cleanliness;
some
they refused to rejoice in the beauty of nature, the harmony
of music, the wealth of literature;

The one consuming ^{passion} ~~purpose~~ of many of these ascetics was to follow
their Lord Jesus into the bliss of communion with God, in this world and
in the ^{heaven} ~~ages~~ to come. Upon this holy purpose they concentrated with
massive attention. They accepted with absolute literalness the teaching
of Jesus, as they understood it. And the ^{incontestable} ~~amazing and almost incredible~~

self-mutilated of
fact is that some of these ascetics became the holiest saints, with
~~intellectual~~ brilliance of mind,
keenness of spiritual insight, surpassing devotion to the will of God,
as they understood it, and astounding spiritual power over their fellows.
Some of them must be reckoned among the great benefactors of the human
race. They sought first and continuously the Kingdom of God, and many
things were added to them.

O thou wise and loving Creator, keep us from despising any faculty
thou hast bestowed upon us, and withhold us from looking with contempt
upon any member of our body. Do thou put iron into our determination
and
to seek first things first, to exalt the life of the spirit above the
satisfactions of the body. ~~Amen~~ In the blessed name of our Lord, Amen.

The Joy of Rising Above the Crowd

What more are you doing than others, ~~how~~ inquired Jesus of his disciples. Are you doing anything exceptional? Then came the admonition to strive for perfection. Where others go one mile, you must travel two miles. ^{When} ~~Where~~ others forgive seven times, you must forgive seventy times seven. ^{While} ~~Where~~ others love ~~their~~ blood relatives, you must be possessed with self-giving concern for ~~all~~ enemies. Where others seek comfort and applause, you must take up your cross and follow wherever God leads.

Powerful is the tendency, when in Rome, to do as the Romans do. ^{line of least resistance.} Conformity is the ~~easy road to take~~ ^{own} ~~and~~ Fear of being different from one's ^{set} often determines behavior, ^{and} Mediocrity is difficult to avoid. ~~Our~~ Our Lord pointed out that the broad, easy road leads to destruction, and many go that way; whereas the ^{path} ~~road~~ to life is narrow and difficult, and few there be who venture upon it.

Mrs. E. Herman shares these discerning lines: "No genuine spiritual height

^{and vision} Courage and faith to travel the second mile ~~then~~ up the steep ascent are derived from intimacy with Jesus, through repeated returnings to the record of his doings, through constant reading of books about him, through ~~constant~~ practice in remembering that he is ^{now} ~~always~~ with us as an affectionate friend, ^{and through frequent inquiry,}

Forgive us, O thou Eternal Guide who art ever beckoning us onward and upward, forgive ~~us~~ our moral flabbiness and spiritual softness. Grant unto us such warm friendship with thee that we would rather please thee than to do any^hthing else on this earth. In the name of Christ, who is ever with us. Amen.

What does he want me to do here and now?

The Wonder of Human Personality

The story of Jan Baalsrud is a glorious tribute to human
~~man~~ ^{and} courage, fortitude. ~~and endurance~~ He was a Norwegian
soldier who, in the days of Hitler's occupation of his country,
was a member of a landing party, from England, on the northern tip
^{above the Arctic circle;}
of Norway, for the purpose of organizing an underground movement. ~~He~~
~~an~~ alone survived an attack by Germans.

[illegible]

came, and two futile ^{efforts} ~~attempts~~ were made to get him to the frontier.
in the snow:
After each frustration he was returned to a deep hole on the high
plateau.

~~After~~ For twenty-seven consecutive days, ~~and~~ Jan lay in a
sleeping-bag covered with deep snow. All this time he was a desperately
sick, ~~and~~ and worst of all, gangrene in his injured toe had spread.
Barely conscious, ~~as he lay alone in the silent room of snowy walls,~~
he decided to amputate his own toes in an effort to save his life.
With his knife, he began the operation - and three days later there
were nine toes side by side on a ledge of snow.

After
~~all~~ all hope ~~had~~ had been abandoned, he was rescued by nomad
Lapps, who ^{in a} ~~with~~ reindeer sled whirled him to safety in Sweden. In a
hospital, his feet and legs were saved, and he was nursed back to
health - minus nine of his toes. Details of this incredible story,
~~may be found in~~ may be found in We Die Alone, by David Howarth.

ARE KIDNAPPERS INCLUDED IN THE LOVE OF GOD?

By Kirby Page

At the center of our religious faith is the conviction that, in the sight of God, every human being is of infinite worth, not only when he is wise and good, but all the time in every possible circumstance. This means enemies in wartime, criminals at the bar of justice, outcasts in degradation.

Consider an extreme case, that of a kidnapper who has murdered a baby. Because God is ~~holy~~ holy and righteous, altogether, we know that he views this crime with abhorrence. But we know equally well that because God is love he looks upon the kidnapper with ^{tender} ~~loving~~ concern and utmost eagerness to bring about his transformation. The justice of God always expresses his love, in every case. What is the will of God about a murderous kidnapper? Not that he shall be lost, but that he shall be saved. This perpetrator of a fiendish deed is still loved with the full power of divine ^{affection,} ~~love,~~ beyond that of a human mother for a prodigal daughter.

Long before Immanuel Kant voiced the truth that man should be treated as an end in himself, ^{never} ~~not~~ as a means, Jesus had taught his disciples to be guided by self-giving concern in dealing with every man, because in him is that of God. Ancient Jews would not willingly tread upon the smallest piece of paper, because the name of God may be written on it. Thus Coleridge wrote: "Trample not on any; there may be some work of grace there, that thou knowest not of. The name of God may be written upon the soul thou treadest on; it may be a soul that Christ thought so much of, as to give his precious blood for it; therefore despise it not."

Shall we make an exception in the case of a kidnapper?

FROM DESPAIR TO sublime heights

By Kirby Page

"The cords of death encircled me; and the tortures of Sheol found me; I found trouble and sorrow." These words of the Psalmist express the despair of Ludwig van Beethoven when, at the age of twenty-eight, he realized that he was losing his hearing. Deafness is bad enough for anybody, but for a musical genius ~~in the early period~~ ^{in the early period} of his career, it is wanton waste and utter senseless^{ness}. Beethoven raved. His mood of ~~despair~~ bitterness and defiance persisted until he became aware that his malady was in no wise diminishing his creativity, but on the contrary there swept over him a feeling of being possessed, of finding within himself an indomitable creative energy that nothing could destroy.

During the next fifteen years, Beethoven's genius "rises to sublime heights," while in the closing decade of his life, his works reached a pinnacle beyond the achievements of any other musician in any age. Three years before his death, after he had been deaf for quarter of a century, his immortal Ninth Symphony was heard for the first time. "Nothing in musical literature has equaled the sublime grandeur of this symphony." And so Beethoven may well have drawn upon the Psalmist for his words of gratitude to the Most High:

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his godly ones,

And praise his holy name.

For though there is a moment in his wrath, there is

a lifetime in his favor.

Weeping may lodge with us at evening, but in the morning there is

a shout of joy...

~~It is a good~~

~~It is a good~~

He composed as he was directed by the divine within him.

He cursed his existence, and threatened to put an end to his life

Long have thoughtful men known that the effective way
to deal with crime is by ^{its} ~~the~~ prevention of crime through
proper training of the young in wholesome environment; through
the temporary confinement of criminals in places of cure, or
through prolonged separation from society if proved to be
incurable. All this requires a more drastic change in our
way of life than we have been willing to make/ - some continue
erring
sending God's children to the chair.

THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE

By Kirby Page

Wherever man has been able to look or listen in this vast universe, he has encountered miracle of God; for miracles are not spectacular acts or events which set aside the laws of the Creator, but are mighty works wrought by his hand. Science, instead of destroying the validity of religious faith, has provided, with recent years, a stupendous array of miracles unknown even to the man of learning at the beginning of this century.

It is now possible to measure the ticking of utterly invisible atoms in billionths of a second.

"When a bird sits on a bough, a tiny locking bone in his foot clamps his claws around the perch so that his muscles can relax without danger of his falling when asleep."

Today a list of the known kinds of molecules would contain more than a million entries, and these are being added to at the rate of about thirty thousand a year.

No longer are atoms indivisible billiard balls, but little universes of the physicist, each a microcosm that opens up new wonders and capabilities to mankind.

Each citizen of the United States now has two thousand times as much energy working for him as was available in 1800.

The sun sends the earth twenty thousand times as much energy as we now use for every purpose - as much energy as would be released by two million atomic bombs.

A pound of U 235 can be made to release as much energy as three million pounds of coal when burned.

of
All the electric power now used in the United States could be produced in theory by converting sixty tons of uranium.

THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE (2)

By Kirby Page

So powerful is our God that even his "feebleness" is mightier than all the strength of man.

Each citizen of the United States now has two thousand times as much energy working for him as his forebears had in 1800. The proportion of an individual's energy given to the production of food has been reduced, in this time, from one-fourth to one-thirtieth.

A pound of U 235 can be made to release as much energy as three million pounds of coal when burned. All of the electric power now used in the United States could be produced, in theory, by converting sixty tons of uranium. The sun sends daily twenty thousand times as much energy as we Earthians now use for every purpose, as much as would be released by two million atomic bombs.

Power beyond human comprehension was required to bring about the Rift Valley, a stupendous fracture in the earth's surface, with a sheer drop of fifteen hundred feet in places, that stretches four thousand miles from the Jordan Valley across the Red Sea through Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique into the sea. ~~"It was the Grand Canyon of the Colorado~~
~~which is a line scratched with a toothpick."~~

The Laurentian Hills of eastern Canada were born of a succession of volcanic explosions more furious than any the world has known, a vast upwelling of molten lava two miles ^{miles with} thick.

The caverns of the sea are so deep that if Mount Everest were dropped in their lowest depth, it would ^{be} submerged, with a mile of water above its summit. The oceanic mountains

known as the Mid-Atlantic Range extend for ten thousand miles and are five hundred miles in width, all beneath the sea, except the Azores and a few other islands.

"From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Mozambique

No. 286

THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE (3)

By Kirby Page

The greatest edifice ever reared by living creatures anywhere on earth is a monument of tiny coral polyps. The coral structure known as the Great Barrier Reef of Australia is twelve hundred miles in length and five hundred miles in width, and is one of the loveliest and most incredible of all creations, a succession of veritable palaces of the sea.

Two hundred times the nourishment ^{needed in} ~~our~~ our hungry world ^{ocean.} ~~decays~~ decays, unharvested, in the greenhouses of the ~~sea~~.
More than two hundred and fifty thousand different species of plants are now known. Insects account for seven hundred thousand of the million ^{as} ~~species~~ of animal life.

The heart of a human being circulates eight hundred gallons of blood a day, and can be expected to operate for two billion pumping strokes without failure. We can detect a candle shining miles away if it sends us even a thousandth part of a trillion of horsepower. It is now possible to measure the ticking of atoms in billionths of a second. On radio waves the sound of a dropped pin can be heard around the earth. An electronic computer can in an hour carry out forty million arithmetical operations, handling ten thousand large numbers a second. Such a machine can solve in an hour problems much too complex for a human computer to solve in a lifetime. ~~One scientist calls the algebra of determinants "a beautiful garden open on every side to expansion."~~

All life depends upon air, with its miraculous qualities. John Ruskin once wrote of the sky: "Sometimes gentle, sometimes capricious, sometimes awful, never the same for two moments together; almost human in its passion, almost spiritual in its tenderness; almost divine in its infinity."

THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE (4)

By Kirby Page

The universe is a thought of God, exclaims the poet. So miraculous is the mind of man that he has been able to create a new type of "brain" that utilizes ten thousand tiny ring-shaped magnets woven in a netting of wires to serve as a memory to store ten thousand bits of information in an instant.

Some individuals have what are called photographic memories. One young man could glance over any page of one of Shakespeare's plays, and repeat it word for word hours afterward. A small Hindu child was able to multiply any two twenty-digit numbers together in a fraction of a second. Coleridge is said to have written Kubla Khan at feverish speed after it came to him whole on waking from a nap. Beethoven sometimes composed by writing as he was directed.

It is natural for a scientist to ^{1st} ~~write~~ ^{say:} "It is not difficult to see the hand of God in the patterns which protons, neutrons, and electrons take to form molecules, molecules to form cells, cells to form tissues, organs, and bodies, and bodies to form social aggregations. No picture of creation is more inspiring than that of a beneficent Creator giving his creatures not a completed universe in which to dwell statically, but a universe of ordered and progressive opportunity." Life is so complex and finds expression in such multitudinous forms that a scientist knows there are "millions of levels of being alive."

And miracle of all miracles is the love of our heavenly Father for every child of every race in every clime, such personal affection that he seeks the lost until they are found, and endeavors in every appropriate way to bless them with abundant and eternal life. Surely it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that we shall be like him.

The humility of great scientists prompted Alfred Noyes
to pay tribute to Newton:

"I know not how my work may seem to others -"

So wrote our mightiest mind - "but to myself

I seem a child that wandering all day long

Upon the sea-shore gathers here a shell,

And there a pebble, colored by the wave,
While the great ocean of truth, from sky to sky,
Stretches before him, boundless, unexplored.

Soule

A new type of "brain" utilized 10,000 tiny ring-shaped magnets woven into a netting of wires to serve as a memory to store 10,000 bits of information in an instant.

Barrett

The Laurentian Hills of eastern Canada were born of a succession of volcanic activities more furious than any the world has known - vast upwellings of molten rock that engulfed two million square miles of the region around Hudson Bay in a cover of lava two miles thick.

We are living in an age of revolutionary mountain building.

Should present ice caps melt completely the profoundest consequences will be the raising of

Each day the rains and running waters sweep eight million tons of the land's substance into the sea.

Sir Thomas Brown three hundred years ago: "The created world is but a small ~~percentage~~ parenthesis in eternity."

The great ocean basins of the planet hold some ~~300~~ 300 million cubic miles of salt water. From this vast store 80,000 cubic miles of water are sucked up each year by evaporation and then returned by rainfall and the flow of rivers.

If the earth's topmost pinnacle Mt. Everest (29,002 feet) were dropped in the deepest part of the ocean, it would lie submerged with a mile of water above its summit.

The Mid-Atlantic Range - 10,000 miles long and 500 miles wide - most of it under water - the Azores

Ecclesiastes - All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full."

THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE

By Kirby Page

The created world is but a small parenthesis in eternity -
th^{is} wrote Sir Thomas Brown, three hundred years ago. Where-
ever man sends his mind, he encounters miracles of God; for
miracles are not spectacular acts or events which set aside the
laws of the Creator; ^{miracles are} ~~but~~ mighty works wrought by ^{the mind} ~~his hand~~ of the Eternal.

Five thousand stars are visible to the naked eye, two
million celestial bodies can be seen through a small telescope,
and the great Palomar ~~star~~ glass sucks in the light of billions.
The last frontier of vision is two billion light years distant,
and ^a light year is six trillion miles. Two billion multiplied by
[^] six trillion!

No longer are atoms conceived as impenetrable billiard balls, for
~~but~~ it is now known that each
~~atom is itself a complex universe~~ [^] atom is itself a complex universe
of whirling energy. Today's list of known molecules contains more
than a million entries, and these are being added to at the rate
of thirty thousand a year. There are more molecules in a cell than
and this latter number,
there are cells in a man, [^] twenty-five million million, is itself ten
thousand times as large as the number of people now living in the
world. [^]

^{Called}
The colony of cells [^] of an ~~opossum~~ ^{colonies} opossum has kept this pattern the
same for eighty million years, and other [^] have held the pattern of
a lichen for a billion years - and the lichen first appeared when
the earth was in its ~~infancy~~ ^{different} four billion years of old age.

One human body contains a hundred thousand ~~varieties~~ ^{different} kinds of
protein molecules, with trillions of each variety.

Pick up any comprehensive ^{volume} ~~book~~ of modern science - "What Man
May Be," by George Russell Harison [^] is an excellent one - and you
will soon be aware that it is a text-book of God's miracles. No
wonder it was observed long ago that the "foolishness" of God is
^{all the} wiser than ~~any~~ wisdom of man.

THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE (2)

By Kirby Page

~~For a span of immeasurable time, man relied on his own energy strength, and on the ~~strength~~ of other human beings, to provide himself with the necessities of life. Then he harnessed beasts of burden, and sailed his boats with wind power. ~~an age later~~ he ~~utilized~~ released the power of steam.~~

Each citizen of the United States now has two thousand times as much energy working for him as his forebear^S had in 1800. The proportion of an individual's energy used in the production of food has been reduced, in this time, from ^{one -}fourth to one-thirtieth.

~~The sun sends ~~thirty~~ twenty thousand times as much energy as we ~~new~~ Earthians now use for every purpose~~

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G.R. > The Laurentian Hills of eastern Canada were born of a succession of volcanic explosions more furious than any the world has known, a vast upwelling of molten rock that engulfed two million square miles of territory in a cover of lava two miles deep.

The caverns of the sea are so deep that if Mount Everest were dropped in ~~the deepest part~~ ^{their lowest depth,} it would lie submerged, with a mile of water above its summit. The oceanic mountains known as the Mid-Atlantic Range extend for ten thousand miles and are five hundred miles in width, all beneath the sea, except ~~for~~ the Azores and a few other islands.

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

THIS MIRACULOUS UNIVERSE (3)

By Kirby Page

The greatest edifice ever reared by living creatures anywhere on earth is ^a ~~the~~ monument of tiny coral polyps. The coral structure known as the Great Barrier Reef of Australia is twelve hundred miles in length and five hundred miles in width, and is one loveliest and most incredible creations ^s ~~and~~, a succession of veritable palace of the sea.

→ Insects account for seven hundred thousand of the million species of animal life. ^π More than two hundred and fifty thousand different species of plants are now known.

^π Two hundred times the nourishment our hungry world needs decays, unharvested, in the greenhouses of the sea.

^π The heart of a human being circulates eight hundred gallons of blood a day, and can be expected to operate for two billion pumping strokes without failure. We can detect a candle shining miles away if it sends us even a thousandth part of a trillion of horsepower. It is now possible to measure the ticking of atoms in billionths of a second. On radio waves the sound of a dropped pin can be heard around the earth. An electronic computer can in an hour carry out forty million arithmetical operations, handling ten thousand large numbers a second. Such a machine can solve in an hour problems much too complex for a human computer to solve in a lifetime. To a mathematician the orderliness of numbers can bring feelings of great beauty. One scientist calls the algebra of determinants "a beautiful garden open on every side to expansion."

All life depends upon air, with its miraculous qualities. John Ruskin once wrote of the sky: "Sometimes gentle, [^] sometimes capricious, sometimes awful, never the same for two moments together; almost human in its passions, almost spiritual in its tenderness; almost divine in its infinity."

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The universe is a thought of God, exclaims the poet. So miraculous is the mind of man that he has been able to create a new type of "brain" that utilizes ten thousand tiny ring-shaped magnets woven in a netting of ~~wire~~ wires to serve as a memory to store 10,000 bits of information in an instant.

Some individuals have what are called photographic memories. One young man could glance over any page of one of Shakespeare's plays, and repeat it word for word hours afterward. A small Hindu child was able to multiply any two twenty-digit numbers together in a fraction of a second. Coleridge is said to have written Kubla Khan at feverish speed after it came to him whole on waking from a nap. Beethoven sometimes composed by writing as he was directed.

~~It~~ ^{It} It was natural for a scientist to write: "It is not difficult to see the hand of God in the patterns which protons, neutrons, and electrons take to form molecules, molecules to form cells, cells to form tissues, organs, and bodies, and bodies to form social aggregates." No picture of creation is more inspiring than that of a beneficent Creator giving his creatures not a completed universe in which to dwell statically but a universe of ordered and progressive opportunity." *No 9T*

← Life is so complex and finds expression in such multitudinous forms that a scientist knows ^{there are} ~~there are~~ "millions of levels of being alive."

And miracle of all miracles is the love of our heavenly Father for every child of every race in every clime, such personal affection that he seeks the lost until they are found, ~~endeavors~~ ^{endeavors} and ~~tries~~ ^{endeavors} in every appropriate way to bless them with abundant and eternal life. Surely it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that we shall be like him.

Barrett:

"Sometimes gentle, sometimes capricious, sometimes awful," wrote John Ruskin of the sky, "never the same for two moments together; almost human in its passions, almost spiritual in its tenderness; almost divine in its infinity."

Of these none is more wonderful, none lovelier than the coral reef wrought not by blind physical agencies but by living creatures, diminutive in stature and primitive in form, yet master builders of the palace of the sea. - The Great Barrier Reef of Australia - The mightiest of these and one of the supreme wonders of the natural world - 1,260 miles long and 500 feet high - it is the greatest single edifice ever reared by living creatures on the face of the earth

On a clear night some 5,000 stars can be seen from the Earth with the naked eye. But a small telescope discloses over two million and the great Palomar telescope sucks in the light of billions - the frontier of vision two billion light years distant - a light year is the distance light travels in a year - six trillion miles.

Schiller - "The universe is a thought of God."

✓ There are billions of levels of being alive.

✓ There are more molecules in a cell than there are cells in a ~~man~~ man, and this latter number, about twenty-five million million, is itself ten thousand times as large as the number of people now living in the world.

The body of a six-foot man contains twenty-five trillion cells, each with about thirty thousand genes in it gathered into chromosomes.

✓ The colony of cells we call an opossum has kept this pattern the same for eighty million years, and others have held the pattern of a lichen for a billion years.

✓ More than two hundred and fifty thousand different species of plants are now known.

✓ Insects account for about seven hundred thousand of the million species of animal life.

One termite nest in which a census was taken was found to contain nearly two million individuals.

✓ "No picture of creation is more inspiring than that of a beneficent Creator giving His creatures not a completed universe in which to dwell statically but a universe of ordered and progressive opportunity."

✓ The heart of a human being circulates 800 gallons of blood a day, and can be expected to operate for two billion pumping strokes or more without failure.

✓ One human body contains a hundred thousand different kinds of protein molecules - many trillions of each variety.

✓ Two hundred times the nourishment our hungry world needs decays, unharvested, in the greenhouses of the sea.

Of the drugs used today, fewer than a third existed in 1940.

A flash of light can reach our eyes from an object 186 miles away in one-thousandth of a second.

✓ We can test a candle shining many miles away if it sends us even a thousandth part of a trillion of horsepower.

✓ The human eye is a living screen with more than a million tiny photocell pickups.

Light travels a million times faster than sound.
dropped

✓ On radio waves the sound of a pin can be heard around the earth.

✓ An electronic computer can in an hour carry out forty million arithmetical operations, handling ten thousand large numbers a second. Such a machine can solve in an hour problems much too complex for a human computer to solve in a lifetime.

✓ One little Hindu girl was able to multiply any two 20-digit numbers together in a fraction of a second.

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~~One of the highest is the Australian~~
~~aboriginal~~

"It is not difficult for a scientist to see the hand of God in the patterns which protons, neutrons, and electrons take to form molecules, molecules to form cells, cells to form tissues, organs, and bodies, and bodies to form social aggregates."

The human soul has great ability to swing from extreme to extreme, from smug complacency to sheer despair. ~~Both extremes~~ are alike deadly to the spiritual life. Self-satisfaction paralyzes vigorous

utter la
loathing

endeavor, and so does ~~injustice~~ hopelessness. ~~The prayer of commitment~~

~~commitment~~ The cry of confession and the acceptance of forgiveness and the prayer of commitment, are necessary to ~~wholesome living.~~ wholesome living.

The Christian way to deal with sin is to recognize it, confess it, accept God's forgiveness, and seek his help in refraining from it. The unforgivable sin is to ^{go on} ~~continue~~ wallowing in the mire that is known to be awful iniquity, make no effort to climb out of the pit, while continuing to curse God.

Sometimes we make light of sin, explain it away as unavoidable ^{say it is} weakness, poor judgment, or dismiss it as an out-dated idea.

attribute it to human nature, or jauntily confess, "of course, I'm no saint." But sometimes sin becomes an obsession, it hypnotizes us, terrorizes us, crushes us, and takes from us the last ray of hope.

To doubt God's desire to forgive and his offer of forgiveness, ^{of our acquaintance.} is to deny that he is as good as some men and women ~~men and women~~ His power to forgive is infinitely greater than human power to commit sin.

"Where is the foolish person," inquires Saint Francois de Sales, "who would thing it is in his power to commit more than God could forgive, and who will dare to measure, by the greatness of his crimes, the immensity of that infinite mercy which casts them all into the depths of the sea of oblivion, when we repent of them with love?"

EMBODIED FAITH is TRUST

by K. P.

So dim is man's vision, and so feeble is his strength, as he confronts the complexities and perils of life, that his salvation comes by faith. Now faith is not a substitute for understanding, it is trust in what ^{we} ~~you~~ really believe. When we Christian live by the faith we profess, our inner reservoirs are flooded with illumination and filled with power. Let us remind ourselves of the Bible's precious promises.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit... those who mourn... the meek... those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... the merciful... the pure in heart... the peacemakers... those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake... your heavenly Father knows that you have need ~~of~~ them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well... Ask... seek... knock... If you then, who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him? ... Let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions... Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father... the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things... ~~He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit...~~ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us... Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Our Lord was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, yet he experienced joy of unfathomable depth, and ~~xxxxxx~~ left a legacy of joy to his disciples. From the dim distant days of the dawn of human life, God has been a Father of love and concern, and has joyously carried a cross on his shoulders. ^{and joy are the} Suffering ~~xxx~~ two sides of affection. Life suffers ^{distills} because of love, and life ~~xxxxxx~~ the sweets of joy from pure affection.

Holy laughter resounds throughout the Bible. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord... Serve the Lord with gladness... Rejoice in the Lord... children of joy... Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!!" / I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation... God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain... His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth... Let the nations be glad and sing for joy... With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation... Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! ... ~~xxxxxxixxxxx~~ For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace... ~~Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!~~ ... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full... May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope... With all our affliction, I am overjoyed... May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy... ~~Ci~~unt it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials...

A SENSE OF INNER PEACE WHILE IN JAIL

By Kirby Page

duplicate

One of the memorable experiences of my life was an intimate contact with Jawaharlal Nehru. We had dinner in his home in Allahabad, and one of my treasures is a note which passed down to us *from the platform at* he ~~mentioned~~ as he was ~~presiding over~~ the Indian National Congress *in Lahore,* inviting us to slip out and join Mahatma Gandhi in his evening prayers.

A high caste Brahmin, nurtured in luxury, a graduate of Harrow and Cambridge, ~~Nehru~~ Nehru served eight terms in British prisons because of his participation in ~~the~~ Gandhi's program of civil disobedience. Here are sentences from his autobiography: "For nearly seven months I had no interview... For fourteen and a half months I lived in my little cell... Interviews are only permitted once in three months, and so are letters... handcuffed to another person for a whole night and part of a day."

At the time we saw him, he was an old-hand at prison life, and was out of jail temporarily. Yet his serenity was impressive. Here are other sentences ~~from~~ which he wrote: "Many of us who worked for the Congress program lived in a kind of intoxication... We sensed the happiness of a person crusading for a cause... So we went on, vaguely but intensely, the exhilaration of action holding us in its grip... This march of ours down the streets of Jaite town reminded me forcibly of a dog being led on by a chain. We felt somewhat irritated to begin with, but the ~~humor~~ humor of the situation dawned upon us, and on the whole we enjoyed the experience... He gave me two resounding blows on my back. The bodily pain was quite forgotten in a feeling of exhilaration... In the midst of strife, and while we ourselves encouraged that strife, we had a sense of inner peace."

THE RAW MATERIAL OF LIFE

By Kirby Page

When a man reaches the age of ~~sixty~~^{is}, it dawns upon him that he has used up more than half of his allotment of Time. With heightened vividness, he realizes that if he is going to do anything in this life, he had better get at it. For many individuals the remaining one-quarter or one-third of a lifetime ~~is~~^{period.} the most creative and the most joyous[^]. Everything depends upon whether or not a man has learned to make redemptive use of hours and days.

So admonitions should be directed to the young and the middle aged. Technology and industry have placed conveniences and ~~time~~^{a generous supply} leisure at the disposal of this generation. The other day my wife and I were talking about the way our mothers used to wash the clothes of the household - with hot water from an outdoor pot stoked with firewood, a galvanized corduroy washboard, and ~~saucer~~[^] of elbow grease; as contrasted with ~~an~~ automatic washer and dryer now looked upon as absolute necessities in millions of homes.

Never before were people able to do so many things in so little time. Whether old age is to be a glorious experience or a miserable fate is now being ~~determined~~^{decided}. It takes time to store inner reserves. It takes time to develop creative habits. It takes time to cultivate the mind. ~~It takes time to nurture the life of the spirit. It takes time~~
interior
~~to be holy.~~ It takes time to subordinate the animal to the inner spirit. ~~It takes time to be holy.~~
^{are}

Fruitful indeed ~~are~~^{are} family conversations about the ~~best~~^{to make} use of our most precious possession. For most of us, wisdom suggests less time for entertainment, more time for re-creation; less absorption in ~~what goes by the name of humor,~~^{the antics of theatrical comedians,} and more concentration on the beautiful and the harmonious, the true and the good. ~~It takes time to be holy.~~

duplicate

VICTORY OUT OF THE EXTREMITY OF DEFEAT

By Kirby Page

The eminent historian Professor Butterfield shares with us
us this insight into one of the glorious aspects of human experience:
experience

The eminent historian Professor Butterfield shares with
us this insight into one glorious aspect of human experience:

By Kirby Page

TRUMP OUT OF OPPRESSION

"Amid disasters and predicaments more permanently hopeless than those of present-day Germany, and amid a catastrophie history compared with which the story of modern Belgium or Poland is one of blessedness and peace, the ancient Hebrews, by virtue of inner resources and unparalleled leadership, turned their tragedy, turned their very helplessness, into one of the half-dozen creative moments in world history. In particular the period associated with the Jewish Exile, provides us with a remarkable example of the way in which the human spirit can ride disaster and wring victory out of the very extremity of defeat. They showed that by resources inside themselves, they might turn their very catastrophe into a spring-board for human achievement, even when the catastrophe was of that irresistible kind which breaks men's backs...

"It would seem that one of the clearest and most concrete of the facts of history is the fact that men of spiritual resources may not only redeem catastrophe, but turn it into a grand creative movement. It is hard to rid oneself of the impression that in general the highest vision and the rarest creative achievements of the mind must come from great internal pressure, and are born of a high degree of distress.²² ~~In any case one can hardly resist the feeling that in the work of some of the major prophets the tragedy of human history has that sort of might and grandeur which we often associate with the name of Beethoven."~~ (H. Butterfield, Christianity and History, p 75)

Hear the ~~triumphant~~ exultation of St. Paul, himself
one of the ~~the~~ noblest illustrations of victory over ^{anguish:} ~~suffering~~
"I consider that the sufferings of this present ~~time~~ are not
worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. For
the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the
sons of God."

No 304

THE DIFFICULTY OF BEING CHRISTIAN

duplicate

Profound wisdom is packed into these words of our Lord:

"For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life,
and those who find it are few."

It is easy to assert belief in the Fatherhood of God, and difficult to treat men of other races, nations and classes ~~men~~ as brethren. Prejudice, discrimination, exclusion, segregation and exploitation are reflected in the practices of Christians throughout the generations since the day of our Lord upon the earth. The record of the American Negro under democracy is summarized in two massive volumes by Gunnar Myrdal. More recently Charles Abrams has assembled the evidence of prejudice and discrimination in housing against the foreign born, Jews, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Koreans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Negroes. These volumes and a hundred similar ones make painful reading for men and women who are seeking to ~~do~~ and to do the will of God as it is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~~Many-rooted are the factors which combine in bringing about discriminatory practices: fear of economic loss, fear of ~~lower~~ standards of morality, fear of different cultures, ~~and~~ fear of the intermixture of races, fear of losing the American way of life, and scores of suspicions and enmities.~~

~~required~~
The discipline of mind and emotion, will and behavior is found in private prayer, group fellowship, public worship, and in the multiplication of favorable experiences across ~~racial~~ lines. If we are to take Jesus seriously we must acquire historical perspective, spiritual insight, depth of concern, and more embracing commitment. More serious than the difficulty in our minds is the perversity of our emotions, and yet more unruly is the will to brotherhood and fellowship.

So embedded within us are the evil spirits of caste and racial
^{Sup} ~~inferiority~~ ^{self-centeredness} that only a mighty work of God in our hearts can cast
 them out. The need is for less ~~selfishness~~ and more of the mind
 of Christ and fuller devotion to the will of God.

Please send postage for the following items enclosing \$_____ in full payment - then mailing bookkeeping.

Copies of "Power from the Bible", list of the power. Selected devotional verses -
 legs from the Bible, without comment, for private use, family worship, prayer
 groups, the sick and the afflicted. 82 pages, attractive paper cover. 15¢ each. \$_____

Copies of "How to Find the Will of God", written in collaboration with numerous
 leaders of ten religious denominations, 30 pages, paper cover, 50¢ each. \$_____

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THE LITTLE MIRACLE AND THE BIG ONE

By Kirby Page

Miss Marjorie Rambeau the veteran actress talks about two miracles in her life, one physical and the other spiritual. In at the age of fifty-six an automobile accident "she had two concussions, and 56 stitches were taken in her head." ^{Her} right shoulder was broken. Her right leg was torn open to the bone from ^{thigh} ~~this~~ to knee. The left hip socket was crushed, and the femur thrust up into her body."

^{After} Three months of agony in a hospital and then five years as a cripple and recluse in her home, followed by a second operation and three months in a sanitarium, ^{she was able} ~~enabled her~~ to get about on crutches.

Then Miss Rambeau read the biography of Peter Marshall and was so deeply impressed that she accept^{ed} an offer to take a small part in the filming of his life story. Highlights of the portrayal were sermons delivered by the leading man. Even through this medium, the sermons strangely warmed her heart and brought new confidence. At one ^{point} ~~stage~~ the cast was rehearsed to walk down the aisle and greet the minister. She told herself, "Marjorie, you do believe. ~~You may be weak in faith as we all are, but you shouldn't be.~~ ^{yourself} Put ~~it~~ in God's hands. You can walk down that aisle." When the signal was given and the cast stood up, Marjorie stood with them, and when they began walking, she ^{also} walked, ~~also~~ using her cane to support her. The scene had to be rehearsed fifteen times, and fifteen times Miss Rambeau walked down the aisle. ~~With~~ At the end of a year she was still walking, without ~~crutches~~ crutches.

"Miracle?" she asks. "I call my walking the 'little miracle,' for there was a far greater spiritual one. I no longer regret for a moment my suffering, because I know now that pain and heartbreak were necessary to my growth. It was through them that I discovered the deepest meaning of life."

HOW GOD TRUSTS MAN!

By Kirby Page

The faith of God in man is beyond all comprehension. Out of divine wisdom he chose to grant a substantial measure of genuine freedom of choice to human beings. And this grant of liberty is never taken away, even when it is used viciously.

Consider God's problem in dealing with the ecclesiastical leaders in the day of Jesus. Twenty thousand priests ministered in the temple, according to Josephus. Priestly taxes were ^{heavy} added ^{to Roman tribute} and were controlled by Annas and Caiaphas, who also ^{dominated} controlled the temple market. From their country estates they supplied the animals sacrificed in the temple, and fixed the sales price. A stench went up to God from their greed and corruption. ^{Yet} They felt themselves to be chief among ~~men~~ ^{divine} servants, and looked upon Jesus with contempt and enmity. How difficult, how humanly impossible it was for these leaders to listen with contrition, humility and aspiration to the wonderful words of life spoken by ~~Jesus~~ our Lord.

God's problem in dealing with us today is essentially the same. ~~one~~ We have failed to take seriously the admonition not to let the world around us squeeze us in its own mold.

→ We have learned to do as the Romans do in the areas of ^{amusements} economics, politics, race relations, patriotism. We also ^{insecurity, conventionalities,} are ensared by self-interest, timidity, fear and passion. ↗

Often we call sweet bitter, and bitter sweet; frequently we look upon evil as good, and good as evil. We cry out, "Lord, Lord," and fail to capture his spirit and walk in his way. Sometimes we deny with our lives what we profess with our lips.

Our hope is in the initiative of God. He is as eager to enlighten and empower us as he was to help Jesus. We can respond to his faith in us by cultivating the attitudes of contrition, humility, gratitude, teachableness, and dedication to the life of the spirit.

And They Followed Jesus

"The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus."³

The Imitation of Christ has been read more often by more Christians throughout the centuries than any other book except the Bible itself. For centuries its authorship was attributed to Thomas a Kempis, but recently discovered evidence makes it clear that Thomas merely edited and added to an older manuscript by Gerard Groote, who was born in 1340 and destined to become the Netherlands' mightiest preacher. He was a graduate of the University of Paris, and after a period in a monastery became an itinerant preacher, a predecessor in a real sense of George Fox and John Wesley. He emphasized the love of God, the Father's initiative, the possibility of life with God. He appealed constantly to the Scriptures and preached what was in fact a new evangelism. He was powerfully influenced by a visit which he made to Ruysbroeck. Millions of Christians all over the earth have fed their spirits upon such words as these:

He is truly great who hath great love.

First keep thyself in peace, and then shalt thou be able to make peace among others.

He enjoyeth great tranquillity of heart, that careth neither
blame
for the praise, nor ~~dispraise~~ of men.

If you wish to rise to this height of perfection, you must begin manfully and lay the axe to the root in order to remove and destroy ~~all~~ all self-seeking and all secret attachment to all temporal goods.

And the more a man dies to himself, the more he begins to live unto God.

It is better to have a little knowledge with humility, and a moderate understanding, than a treasure of knowledge with self-conceit.

Perfect triumph is the triumph over self.

It is a great art to know how to converse with Jesus; and to know how to keep Him is great wisdom.

Know for certain that you must lead a life in which you continually die to self.

Be meek and humble, and Jesus will be with you.

Many follow Jesus unto the breaking of bread; but few to the drinking of the cup of His passion. Amen.

No. 224

Duplicate

Arturo Toscanini was born in Parma, Italy, in 1867, son of an obscure tailor. A teacher in school recognized the ability of Arturo and persuaded his father to let him be sent to the Conservatory, the very place where a century earlier the immortal Paganini had studied. Nine years later he was graduated with the highest possible ratings, 160 out of 160 in cello, 50 out of 50 in both piano and composition. Even at this age Toscanini possessed a memory so amazing that accounts of it seem utterly incredible. Soon this ~~amazing~~ memory was to be given dramatic expression. He sailed for South America with an opera company, as cellist and an assistance chorus master. On the first ⁿight at Rio de Janeiro the performance was a disgraceful failure, due to bitter controversy between the conductor and the musicians. The conductor resigned in rage and publicly denounced the artists. The next night a hostile crowd created a near riot and the assistant conductor was unable to proceed. In desperation the management accepted a suggestion that perhaps Toscanini could quiet the mob and conduct the performance. At that time he was nineteen and had never conducted an opera, and certainly had not as leader. rehearsed ~~with the company~~ Nevertheless, from memory, without once opening the score, he led in the presentation of Aida. The audience simply went wild in acclamation, as audiences continued to do for the

next sixty-five years. At La Scala in Milan, the Metropolitan in New York, Bayreuth, Salzburg, he conducted from memory. In 1926 he turned from opera to ~~orchestral music~~ orchestral music and became director of the New York Philharmonic, and later over the air with the NBC Symphony. His genius as a musician and the magnetic power of his own personality combined to make of him the greatest conductor of all time. The joy he brought to multitudes of individuals is simply ~~immeasurable~~ ^{immeasurable.}

duplicate

LIVING WITH PEACE OF MIND

By Kirby Page

Take thyself often to wooded temples, and feed thy soul
on color and fragrance and a sense of leisure. Every season has
its own special beauty. Journey now with John Muir: "Nature
with

thinks
So the General ~~now says~~ that dropping the atomic bomb
on Hiroshima was not necessary to the winning of the war. No,
General MacArthur did not say just that, what he said was:
"The imminent collapse of Japan was clearly apparent several
months before Yalta," that is, ~~xx~~ "several months before"
before May, 1945.
February/ To be specific: some six months before the first
atomic bomb was used, the General knows/ that the end of the war .
that is,
with Japan was "imminent," "likely to happen soon," "about to
occur."

Ten years ago General Arnold reported officially that
prior to the use of the atomic bomb, ~~x~~ "precision" bombing by
our air force had gutted ~~thex~~ all the chief centers of Japan and
paralyzed ~~war~~ production of munitions and war supplies.

It is high time that we stop talking about the million
American lives saved by using the atomic bomb. Penitently we
should seek God's forgiveness

"Even before one of our B-29's dropped its atomic bomb on Hiroshima,
Japan's military position was hopeless... The fact is that the
Japanese could not ~~hold out~~ have held out long, because they had
lost control of the air... and so could not prevent the destruction
of their cities and industries."

Ps. 65:9, 10

No. 272 - Friday

Indian Summer in the Sierra

"Nature with eternal earnestness keeps her autumn holidays, giving gold to the maple leaf, crimson to Vaccinium, and scarlet to the leaves and berries of the mountain ash, mellowing her sunbeams, hushing her winds and streams, robing the harsh rocks in soft rosy light, gathering leaves and burrs into hollows, feeding her squirrels and birds, sparing no deed of loving beauty as ^{it} ~~she~~ she were gardening this canyon above all others.

"Ambrosial days of thick gold. Crimson yellow of clouds. Small isles of mist transfigured. Water moving in luxurious langour, thick-swelling rolling folds gliding in silence. Sunlight lying thick and rich, brooding calm in the groves of pine down the rugged ice-carved canyon. Bars of crimson at sunset, glorifying the edge of night. Long after the valley lies quiet in shadow the domes still sing warmly with sunshine and echo it back to the meadows. At night the great walls, unrelieved by any alternations of light and shadow, loom in unbroken masses to the stars. The green pines far above wave and sing to the touch of grand old winds. Nowhere is God's love coined into more beautiful forms. Everywhere is timelessness and infinite leisure...

"The fragrance with which one is feasted in the woods is, like the music, derived from a thousand untraceable sources. In music there are not only birds, main wind-tones, the frogs, a flutter of leaves like the clappings of small hands, squirrels, waterfalls, and the rush and trill of rivers and small brooks, but the whole air vibrates with myriad voices blended that we cannot analyze. ■

"So also we breathe fragrant violets, the rosiery pine and spicy fir, the rich, invigorating aroma of plushy bogs in which a thousand herbs are soaked... and the air is laden with a multitude of scents gathered from ocean wave-tops, from pine forests and gardens, making a combination so marvelously poised we scarce notice it on account of its excellence. Yet it varies every moment, this vast scent-flood, and is not the same in two portions of the current, as when the central plain is in bloom or withered, or the lower woods ^{are} putting out young leaves or making balsam." 333

John Muir. ~~John of the Mountains, with an introduction~~ copyright, 1938,
Wanda Muir Hanna. Published by Houghton Mifflin
pp. 167, 219

O thou God of beauty and harmony, we thank thee for the luxuriant beneficence of thy world, we thank thee. Amen.

Duplicate

MARIAN ANDERSON

No. 98

87

When the applause had ended, the great Toscanini turned to the singer and exclaimed, "A voice like yours is only heard about once a century." Marian Anderson was born in 1908 in the dilapidated Negro section of South Philadelphia. Her father peddled ice in the summer, coal and wood in the winter. Much sacrifice made possible the purchase of a violin and second-hand piano for Marian. ^{At the age of eight} ~~When~~ she began to sing in the choir of the Union Baptist Church, where she soon became known as "the baby contralto." When her father died, Mrs. Anderson went to work scrubbing floors in a department store. In High School Marian was frequently told, "You ought to have that voice trained." One day her mother handed her some money which she had saved and told her to go to a famous conservatory and begin lessons in singing. But her application was denied, "we don't take colored." Then she was granted an audition by David Bispham the baritone, who advised her to go to Giuseppe Boghetti the eminent teacher of voice but warned her that a fee of one hundred and twenty-five dollars would be required as a beginning. The folks at the church suggested a benefit concert. Thus Marian was provided with opportunity. At seventeen in a competition she won the right to appear as a soloist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, followed by a concert tour of American cities. But it was

No. 276

92

not until she went to Europe in 1932 that she became famous. It was after Marian sang at the annual Mozart Festival in Salzburg that Toscanini praised her so highly. Her concerts across Europe and in South America constituted a triumphal procession. In 1939 when the D. A. R. refused permission for her to sing in Constitution Hall, arrangements were made for her to ^{appear} ~~sing~~ on Easter Sunday in front of the Lincoln Memorial, where seventy-five thousand people were enthralled by her singing. After her concert in Houston, a newspaper reported, "If there was a dry eye in the house, it was because they sold a seat to a stone man."

No. 99

Charles F. Andrews

He was born on Lincoln's birthday in 1871 in England, the fourth child in a family of fourteen. His father was a minister of the Catholic Apostolic Church, but Charles became an Anglican. He won a scholarship and entered Cambridge at

It Is A Sorrow and Shame

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who remains united to me, with me united to him, will be very fruitful... When you are very fruitful and show yourselves to be disciples of mine, my Father is honored."⁵

Theologica Germanica is the title of an anonymous book which Martin Luther found and published with this word of high praise: "Next to the Bible and St. Augustine, no book hath ever come into my hands from which I learned more of what God and Christ and man and all things are." It was written about 1350 and passed through seventeen editions in the lifetime of Luther, and more than ninety editions to date.

Five eternal truths stand out like Himalayan peaks:

I would fain ~~be~~ be to the Eternal Goodness, what his own hand is to a man.

But it is a sorrow and shame to think that the Eternal Goodness is ever most graciously guiding and drawing us, and we will not yield to it.

Be simply and wholly bereft of self.

Nothing burneth in hell but self-will.

All deception beginneth in self-deception.

For four hundred years Christians of many tongues and in many lands have found nourishment in such words as these: "For the more a man hath of ownership, the more he hath of hell and misery; and the less of self-will, the less of hell, and the nearer he is to the Kingdom of Heaven. And could a man, while on earth, be wholly quit of self-will and ownership, and stand up free and at large in God's true light, and continue therein, he would be sure of the Kingdom of Heaven. He who hath something of his own, is himself a slave; and he who hath

nothing of his own, nor seeketh nor longeth thereafter, is free and at large, and in bondage to none... For the more a man followeth after his own self-will, and self-will groweth in him, the farther off is he from God, the true Good... ~~Sin is nothing else than that the creature willeth otherwise than God willeth, and contrary to Him...~~ But it is a sorrow and shame to think that the Eternal Goodness is ever most graciously guiding and drawing us, and we will not yield to it."

We confess to thee, dear Father, what thou knowest better than we, that we are all wrapped up in ourselves, deeply solicitous about our own comforts and pleasures, and resolutely determined to have our own way. Help us in penitence and dedication to accept the forgiveness which thou dost so freely offer. Amen.

No. 275

1:4-14
Phil. 4:10-13

No. 84 - Saturday

Paul Was a Superconqueror

"The letters of Paul are full of distressing facts, but they do not depress the reader. Paul was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. His career was not roughened by an occasional hardship, it was a continuous tragedy. Paul experienced nearly all the sorrows which a mortal can know. Misunderstanding, misrepresentation, indifference, ingratitude, calumny, slander, suspicion, hatred, scorn, loneliness, hunger, toil, poverty, weariness, sickness, vituperations as a renegade, a traitor, an enemy of society, and a blasphemer, imprisonment, scourging, and threats of death; all this and more he was called upon to endure...

"But the recital of his hardships does not make us gloomy. When we are most depressed, we turn to his letters. They cheer us up in our doleful moods, we are helped by what he went through. ~~His letters kindle a light in the darkness. We drink strength by drawing near to his suffering heart. We grow more cheerful by meditating on the tragedy of his life. It is not dismal events in the lives of others which depress us so much as the spirit in which these events are met. If the soul of the sufferer is broken down into lugubrious helplessness or wailing despair, our own heart is dragged into the pit. But the soul which can suffer victoriously~~

is the soul which floods the heavens with light. In his sufferings, Paul was a superconqueror. He never ^{moans} ~~groans~~, whines or murmurs. He never grumbles or groans...

"And so while he is sorrowful, he is always rejoicing. In the outer courts of his soul there is often pain and sometimes agony, but in the inner court there is always the sound of music and dancing. ~~Underneath the surface of his letters there runs a strain of deep and solemn gladness. Again and again it is hidden from the eye and ear, but it keeps breaking through...~~ He possessed the joy of feeling that he was working with God. God has far-reaching plans, and Paul is helping him to carry them out. When he suffers he still is joyful because his sufferings, like the sufferings of Jesus, are helping to work out the purposes of the Eternal." 87

Charles E. Jefferson, The Character of Paul.

Copyright, 1923, by the MacMillan Co. pp. 277-285

Grant unto us, O God, that faith which is itself the victory. Undergird our confidence in the powers of the spirit with the quality of ^olyalty. Amen.

Ps. 119*97-105

No. 288 ~~Sunday~~

The Words Quicken and Shine

"It took me ten days

To read the Bible through,

Then I saw what I saw,

And I knew what I knew...

space → "For a great wind blows

Through Ezekiel and John,

They are all one flesh

That the Spirit blows upon.

"And suddenly the words

Seemed to quicken and to shine; ✓

They glowed like the bread,

They purpled like the wine...

"The Book felt like flesh,

It would breathe - it would sing - ✓

It would throb beneath my hand ✓

Like a breast, like a wing.

"It would cry, it would groan, ✓

It would shōt and complain - ✓

It would seem to climb a hill ✓

With its solemn stress of pain. ✓

"It would grapple with fierce powers, ✓

With a deep interior strife.

It would seem to heave and lift ✓

With a terrible, glad life.

"And my flesh was in the Book, ✓

And its blood was in me;

I could feel it throb within, ✓

As plain as it could be...

"It took me ten days

To read the Bible through -

Then I saw what I saw, 355

And I knew what I knew." Amen. ✓

~~Anna Hempstead Branch, Sonnets From a Lock Box.~~
~~Houghton Mifflin Co. 1929~~

Love Suffereth Long, and is Kind

"In the fall of 1945, I met a Polish woman in Stockholm," writes Douglas V. Steere. ~~"This was not the first time she had come to the Quakers there to offer her services."~~ During the war she had been forced by the Germans to work in the death camp at Auschwitz and had been compelled to clear the gas chambers. She had failed three times in attempts at suicide, the work was so horrible, and finally she had escaped and made her way with a group of Poles to Sweden. ~~Where she had been living as a guest of the Swedish government for six months in a Polish camp.~~ Now the Polish government had invited her to return to Poland. But before she accepted she wondered if the Quakers were doing any work for her enemies, the suffering Germans in Germany, in which she could join us. As I looked at the sincere yearning to serve those who had abused her, I saw a glint of the patient Grace of God.

"And I saw it again in Lennart Segerstrole, who is perhaps Finland's greatest living painter. ~~He lost his highly gifted son in the closing days of the war with Russia. He lived in a country heavily burdened by the grinding territorial and reparations indemnities exacted by Russia in the peace terms. The houses and roads and bridges in the northern third of his beloved Finland had been wantonly destroyed in a scorched earth program carried out by the Germans as they evacuated it in 1944.~~ If ever anyone had ground to hate the Russians and the Germans, it was this sensitive Finnish artist. Instead, I sat at the table with

him and saw with my own eyes the passion with which he told me that he saw his own task and Finland's as being to reach in some way the deep and precious soul of Russia and to help in binding up the wounded body of broken Germany. He was himself at work painting a great mural depicting 'The Atone-ment of the World.' God has not left us without revelation of His Grace at work in our time." 41

Douglas V. Steere, Time To Spare. Copyright,
1949, by Harper & Brothers 109,110

O Thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who art ever being crucified by thy blind and rebellious children, and who yearneth with compassion to redeem every member of thy universal household, forgive us for our many sins of indifference, ingratitude and defiance. Help us to reveal in our attitudes and actions thy redeeming grace. Amen.

"Purge me, O God,

With Thy refining fire!

Nor heavy rest Thy Blame,

When flesh shrinks from the flame!

↑

☞ Sweep my soul clean,

By cleansing winds!

Nor let me fret at storm and stress,

Whose purpose is to bless!

↑

☞ Give me a task too big,

Too hard for human hands.

Then I shall come at length

To lean on Thee,

And leaning, find my strength!"

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Wilbur Humphrey Fowler, Christian Century, Jan 28, 1938

Luke 23:13-23

No. 94 - Tuesday

The Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin

Shack "Let us now state the facts starkly, even if they ~~shock~~ ^{shock} and hurt us. Jesus brought beauty and blessing into the world - only blessing - alike for the body and the soul; healing the hurts of life, bearing its woes, ^a casting out its evil spirits; teaching the truth which sets men free from sin and fear and loneliness. He lived in self-sending devotion to His fellows, seeking to set up the reign of God in the hearts and homes of man. ~~Loving others, He thought not of Himself; asking nothing, He could not be robbed - He lived under a borrowed roof, and slept at last in a borrowed tomb. All-forgiving, He knew neither malice nor hate, and His humanity was free from envy. He came not to be ministered unto but to minister; utterly selfless, incredibly merciful, infinitely patient with human weakness - except hypocrisy, the leprosy of unreality so hard to heal.~~ Yet as a reward for His life of love, the world put Him to a brutal and shameful death - cruel, ghastly, as if he had been a man of crime...

"Add now the further fact that this thing was deliberately done, at the end of a long, elaborate, studied conspiracy of calumny, attacking His person and His character... The light shone in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not; indeed it tried to blot it out. No weapon was left unused, lying,

bribery, perjury, and the most vicious slander, in order to destroy Him as a subversive agitator.

"How could such things be? How could men call good evil, and evil good? Who were so blind that they could not see the most beautiful thing on earth - a Teacher of genius, young, strong, loving life, giving Himself in sacrificial toil and suffering for those too ignorant to know, too blind to see, too stolid to feel? Who did so unbelievable a thing, and why? Again, we must face the fact - we cannot evade it - they were pious people, the religious leaders of the nation, the church!" 101

~~Joseph Fort Newton, His Cross and Ours. Copyright, 1941, by Harper & Brothers.~~ n. 65, 66

O God, awaken us to the realization that in us are to be found the sins which crucified our Lord. Forgive us the spiritual blindness which causes us so glibly to dismiss Jesus' way of life as being impracticable and visionary in dealing with the rugged realities of this world crisis. Grant thy pardon for the faith our people have in the restraining power of atomic and bacterial weapons. Do thou create clean hearts within us and renew a right spirit. Amen.

God Really Is Doing Something

When confronted with the miseries of mankind, "there is only one argument that touches the bottom, and that is Paul's question: 'He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?' We look on the woes of the world. We hear the whole creation, to use Paul's language, groaning and laboring in pain. We see a few good men vainly striving to help the world into life and light; and in our sense of the awful magnitude of the problem and of our inability to do much, we cry out: 'Where's God? How can he bear this? Why doesn't he do something?'

"And there is but one answer that satisfies; and that is the Incarnation and the Cross. God could not bear it. He has done something. He has done the utmost compatible with moral wisdom. He has entered into the fellowship of our suffering and misery and at infinite cost has taken the world upon his heart that he might raise it to himself. This is the highest revelation. Of course the order of life is still mysterious. The mystery of pain is not yet solved. But in the presence of this revelation we say, with the Apostle: What shall separate us from the love of God? For he that spared not his own Son for our sakes must with him give us all things; so that against

all evils and distresses whatsoever we are more than conquerors through him that ^{hath} loved us. In such a world as ours the incarnation contains the highest revelation of God... The chief value of the Christian revelation consists in its being a revelation of God. It is not primarily and essentially a series of verbal statements about God, but rather a description of what God has done and intends for men... A Divine Person working for love's sake a divine work for man's redemption is the centre of the Christian faith and the source of its power." 104

Borden Parker Bowne, Studies in Christianity.

Copyright, 1909, by Borden Parker Bowne.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Co Boston pp. 99-103

O thou Eternal Sufferer, who from earliest dawn hast borne the burden of the sinning of thy children and who hast agonized in the endeavor to bring prodigals back home, we beseech thee to forgive us and to create in us readiness to accept thy pardon. Restore us to our right minds. Make sensitive our appreciation of Jesus Christ our Lord and help us to walk more faithfully with him in the service of our fellows. Amen.

duplicate

Song of the Earth

"The whole earth sings. Her voices are many and various. The stream that runs through a peaceful valley... the tree that lifts its arms to the sun... the bird that pours out his heart in wild, sweet melody... the wheat field that moves in waves before the wind... the rain that falls into the welcoming hands of the dry ground... the snow that swirls and dances gayly under gray clouds... the constellations that trace their eternal patterns of light against the dark sky, - all these are the voices of the earth, singing of peace and order, beauty and brotherhood. Her theme is always the same; she keeps singing to man: 'We belong together; we are made for each other; let us rejoice and be glad.'

"A boy kneels between two shallow furrows in his father's garden... he now bends in almost complete stillness as his right hand pushes into the soil. The sun is warm upon his back. His thoughts are full of the mystery of seeds and growth and harvest... A strange exciting music runs through him as he dimly senses his oneness with the life of the world. He has heard the song of the earth.

"A girl walks in a summer field white and gold with flowers... Her eyes marvel at the wind that sways ~~the~~ grass and flower and billows her dress, and at the slow flowing of white clouds over her head... A woman stands smiling before a bed of roses. She remembers the little plants she gave to the soil in other

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summers, the rich loam that ran through her fingers and was tamped well over the roots, the watering when the small rains failed, the weeding and the pruning. Now the ~~velvet~~ velvet petals, fruit of ~~her~~ working and her waiting, shine in the sun...

"A farmer is on his way from the field to the house. The day's cultivating is done. The farmer and his two sons walk wearily... 'Look!' says the father, pointing toward the western horizon, where the setting sun is painting great clouds in amazing rose and yellow and green. 'Isn't it beautiful!' The three ^{three} ~~three~~ hungry farmers stand a while in silence. They are awed by the song of the earth."

Fred D. Wentzel, Song of the Earth. The
Christian Education Press, Philadelphia & St. Louis

Dear Father, we thank thee for the Good Earth. Deepen our sense of gratitude for bodily nourishment, for mental stimulus, for spiritual exhilaration. Help us to tread reverently upon the holy soil. Amen.

duplicate

Ps. 90:14-17

No. 292 - Thursday

Reflections of the Glory of the Lord

John Ruskin has given us this description of the after-glow of an Italian storm: "The storm swept finally to the north, and the noble outlines of the domes of Albano and graceful darkness of its ilex grove rose against pure streaks of alternate blue and amber, the upper sky gradually flushing through the last fragments of rain-cloud in deep, palpitating azure, half ether and half dew. The noon-day sun came slanting down the rocky slopes of La Riccia, and its masses of entangled and tall foliage, whose autumnal tints were mixed with the wet verdure of a thousand evergreens, were penetrated with it as with rain. I cannot call it color, it was conflagration. Purple and crimson and scarlet, like the curtains of God's tabernacle, the rejoicing trees sank into the valley in showers of light, every separate leaf quivering with buoyant and burning life; each, as it turned to reflect or to transmit the sunbeam, first a torch and then an emerald. Far up into the recesses of the valley, the green vistas arched like the hollows of mighty waves of some crystalline sea, with the arbutus flowers dashed along their flanks for foam, and silver flakes of orange spray tossed into the air around them,

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breaking over the gray walls of rock into a thousand separate stars, fading and kindling alternately as the weak wind lifted and let them fall. Every blade of grass burned like the golden floor of heaven, opening in sudden gleams as the foliage broke and closed above it, as sheet-lightning opens in a cloud at sunset: the motionless masses of dark rock - dark though flushed with scarlet lichen - casting their quiet shadows across its restless radiance, the fountain underneath them filling its marble hollow with blue mist and fitful sound, and over all - the multitudinous bars of amber and rose, the sacred clouds that have no darkness, and only exist to illumine, were seen in fathomless intervals between the solemn and orbéd repose of the stone pines, passing to lose themselves in the last, white, blinding lustre of the measureless line where the Campagna melted into the blaze of the sea."

~~Modern Painters, vol. I, Part II, Sect. II, Chapt II, 256, 7~~

Oh thou Lord of all Loveliness, we thank thee for the glorious beauties of thy world, even in moods of storm and commotion. Attune our ears to hear thy still, small voice above the clamor and tumult of our restless lives, and do thou restore us to our right minds. Amen.